CNMI's COVID total now 289. PAGE 3
Cui pleads the fifth. PAGE 4

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AT A GLANCE

As of 6:55pm, Oct. 18, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **83%**

Days since last community transmission: **208**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,319
Fully Vaccinated:	29,669
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,881
Fully Vaccinated:	4,679
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	821

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	16,846	145	16,991
Recovered	13,526	680	14,206
Active	2,417	145	2,562
Deaths	222	1	223

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	288	1	289
Traced via Travel Screening	251	1	252
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Man flees quarantine

Department of Public Safety officers in hazmat suits arrest freelance photographer David Butterfield who walked out of the Kanoa Quarantine Facility six days into his mandatory quarantine. A video of his arrest is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNeTyBnn9Aw
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety arrested a man yesterday after he fled the Kanoa Resort quarantine facility six days into his mandatory quarantine.

Freelance photographer David Butterfield, who arrived from Guam on Oct. 12, 2021, was arrested around 11:13am yesterday after police pulled him over in the parking area of American Nails in Garapan.

DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan said that Butterfield will be charged and held at the Department of Corrections following his arrest.

Butterfield, who claims he walked straight out of the quarantine facility on Sunday eve-

See MAN on Page 4

CMS rescinds termination notice vs CHCC

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has rescinded the termination action it earlier imposed against the CNMI's lone hospital.

In an Oct. 13, 2021, letter to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CMS said that, after an initial and validation inspections at the Commonwealth Health Center, it was determined that the standards of Medicare conditions pursuant to CMS regulations have been met.

CMS is the nation's governing body that administers the Medicare program and works in partnership with state governments to administer Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and health insurance portability standards.

In order for health care providers to receive Medicare and Medicaid funding, CMS regularly surveys hospitals to ensure adherence to its conditions of participation, or CoPs, verifying how well health care entities comply with its requirements.

Nine year ago, in November 2012, CMS issued a Notice of Termination to the hospital,

See CMS on Page 4

'Fukushima wastewater release can't be delayed'

In this Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021, file photo, Nuclear reactors of No. 5, center left, and 6 look over tanks storing water that was treated but still radioactive, at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday, Oct. 17 visited the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant AP

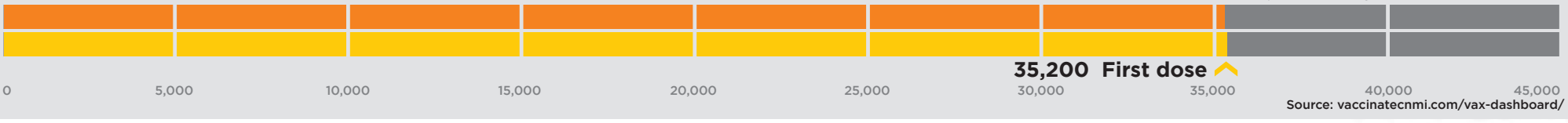
By MARI YAMAGUCHI
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's new prime minister on Sunday said the planned mass disposal of wastewater stored at the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant cannot be delayed, despite concerns from local residents.

Speaking at his first visit to the facility since taking

See FUKUSHIMA on Page 4

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS

China's growth sank in the latest quarter as a construction slowdown weighed on its recovery.

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ASIA

Almost overnight, Japan has become a somewhat mysterious coronavirus success story.

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LIFE & STYLE

A work by Banksy that self-shredded just three years ago has fetched almost 18.6 million pounds.

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Her Story

AMANDA HAYES
Breast Cancer Survivor

My story began in 2018 when I discovered a lump on my breast. I went to Guam for additional scans, biopsies and MRI. The doctors discussed my results with me and I knew by the look on his face, I was diagnosed with cancer.

Although I was feeling numb and shocked, I did not let those feelings deter me from fighting cancer. I immediately discussed with my doctor the next plan of action. I went through two major surgeries, chemotheraphy, and immunotheraphy in the Philippines and Guam. The support from my doctors, nurses and family helped made the treatment process more comfortable where I was able to relax, reflect, and take a nap.

In May 2019, I had my last session at the Northern Marianas Oncology Center. I was elated and looking forward to life beyond cancer. I spend my time taking care of myself by eating healthier, going to the gym, and making time to pray and reflect. The biggest lesson cancer has taught me is "we only have time". I believe that we do not know how much time we have, but we have to live life unapologetically.

For those battling cancer, take the time to understand, accept and reflect on the process. This is part of your story. Find peace and move past the worry, fear, and negative thoughts.
Finally, make every second and cherish every moment.

CNMI Breast and Cervical Screening Program (BCSP)
The Breast and Cervical Screening Program gives qualified women in the CNMI the opportunity to get screened for breast and cervical cancer tests at no cost!
TYPES OF SCREENING TESTS COVERED
Clinical Breast Exams
Mammograms
Pap Tests
QUALIFICATIONS FOR BCSP
Ages 21+ for pap tests
Ages 40+ for mammogram
Resident of the CNMI for at least 6 months
Meet the income guidelines
No health insurance or underinsured
Sign Up Today!
For more information, please call the
Breast and Cervical Screening Program
Saipan: (670) 236-8728 | Tinian: (670) 433-9337
Rota: (670) 532-9333
This project was supported by Grant #5NU58DP006348 awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The content represents the views of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation and does not reflect the official views of the HHS or CDC.
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Local

Saipan Vegas owner drops ethics complaint vs Yumul

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owner of e-gaming club Saipan Vegas, MP Holdings LLC, has dropped its ethics complaint against Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) before the House of Representatives.

MP Holdings LLC game room shift manager Audrey Castro and game room supervisor Maximina Gablonza wrote House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez last Wednesday about the withdrawal of the complaint.

Castro and Gablonza said that after careful consideration and reflection, they have decided to withdraw their ethics complaint against Yumul.

"We bear no ill will and have come to understand that, from his perspective, he was always acting with the best interest of the CNMI at heart," they said.

The dismissal means Club 88 has also withdrawn its complaint as co-complainant.

Last August, Saipan Vegas and Club 88 filed the ethics complaint against Yumul for introducing House Local Bill 22-8 despite allegedly acknowledging a conflict of interest because his brother is the chief executive officer of their competitor, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

MP Holdings, LLC and Mariana Entertainment LLC, owners of Saipan Vegas and Club 88, respectively, submitted their ethics complaint before Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) based on Yumul's participation in the legislative process that led to enactment of House Local Bill 22-8.

That bill essentially doubled the license fees imposed on e-gaming machines.

Last month, Bartley A. Jackson, general manager of MP Holdings, told the House of Representatives Gaming Committee that they want to help the Legislature find solutions to the CNMI's financial problems and that they are confident they can find a workable accommodation that will help the Legislature raise additional funding and allow MP Holdings LLC to remain in business.

Torres: I never talked to Dela Cruz whether to testify or not

» Garber notes lack of pending legislation relating to issues JGO is investigating; no pending impeachment proceedings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that he never talked to his executive assistant, Frances Dela Cruz, whether to testify or not to testify before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, which is investigating his expenditures of public funds and travels.

As this developed, Ross Garber, the Washington D.C.-based lawyer for Torres in the JGO matter, wrote JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta last Sunday, saying he is not aware of any pending legislation relating to the issues the JGO Committee is investigating.

In response to questions about the JGO hearing during his radio press briefing, Torres said that, for the record, he does not talk any of those that have been subpoenaed by the JGO Committee whether to testify or not, or what to say or not to say.

"So this goes with Frances [Dela Cruz]. She has an attorney and she discussed those options that she has," Torres said.

The governor said he is not sure if Dela Cruz will testify today, Tuesday, before the JGO, as it will be her decision.

Torres reiterated that he earlier told lawmakers that they only need to just ask him for any information, or send the documents that they're concerned about, as he would just have answered that.

"But yet they continue to call everybody else that's pertaining to whatever investigation they're having. So there's process and we're going to do that process," he said.

In his letter to Babauta Sunday, Garber said inasmuch as the Legislature is seeking to determine Torres' compliance with the law, this is a role specifically reserved for other state officials, including the Public Auditor and the Attorney General.

"Notably, there are no pending impeachment proceedings," he said.

In short, Garber said, the JGO Committee may not usurp the role of other state officials, and it is not conducting an inquiry "on a subject on which legislation could be had."

Garber had earlier objected to the JGO Committee's subpoena for Dela Cruz to testify, asserting that the executive assistant has testimonial immunity.

To be clear, Garber said, he is not advocating that Dela Cruz refuse to provide information to the committee. Instead, he proposes that it be done in a way that maximizes the reliability of any such information and reduces the chance that the process will impair valid privileges or improperly harass and embarrass key personnel of the Office of the Governor.

"Nor would my proposal require the committee to waive or forever eschew obtaining live testimony from Ms. Dela Cruz should it be deemed to be necessary," Garber said.

Instead, he said, upon receiving written answers to questions (under oath), the committee may then determine whether the live testimony would advance its inquiry.

Garber said the Office of the Governor invites further input and even a counter-proposal should this approach not be satisfactory.

The lawyer urged the committee that threats of contempt against Dela Cruz be avoided, given her untenable position between an arm of the Legislative Branch and an Executive Branch asserting its constitutional privileges and immunities.

Garber proposed that Dela Cruz should instead provide, in writing and under oath, responses to written questions asked by the committee.

Babauta however, rejected Garber's proposal as unreasonable, describing it, in effect, as a proposal for the subpoena to Dela Cruz to be set aside.

"Live testimony is substantively different from written interrogatories and is not an adequate substitute," she said.

Babauta said they see no reason to doubt that Dela Cruz is lawfully subject to subpoena and may be held in contempt if she fails to appear.

CNMI COVID total now 289

One incoming traveler has tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 289.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday, the latest case was identified by travel screening and confirmed positive through fifth-day testing on Oct. 17.

The individual was quarantined and is being actively monitored, and CHCC's contact tracing team has already begun reaching out to those who were in closest contact with the individual.

CHCC also reported yesterday that there are currently no active, COVID-19-related hospitalizations in the CNMI.

In related news, CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña said that she and the CNMI's other health policy leaders "are not considering any changes [to the CNMI's health protocols] at this time," especially following the report that Guam's 220th COVID-19-related death was a 4-month-old male infant.

"We are not considering any changes at this time. We are still monitoring what is happening in the region, especially with the recent death of a 4-month-old and a 21-year-old [in] our neighboring island of Guam. We are very careful to change our protocols at this time, especially since United [Airlines] flights still bring in positive cases," she said.

Muña said the CNMI's health leaders will soon be having a meeting with the CNMI Public School System to discuss the possibility of having vaccination clinics within schools.

"All health officials in the U.S. are preparing for that. ...That is still under discussion [and] the data has been submitted to the FDA on COVID vaccines in young kids, and we're waiting for [the FDA's] decision. …We're planning to meet with PSS next week, and that's part of the discussion as well in regards to vaccinating children in schools. We feel that that's the most effective and better approach as we [continue to] roll vaccines out," said Muña.

Muña and Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez were welcomed as radio guests during Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' media briefing on radio last Friday. ***(Joshua Santos)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Writing workshop

The Marianas Writers Movement is hosting a Humanities Month writing workshop called "Our Stories, Our Culture" on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, from 11:30am to 2:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to help prepare for writing in November. Get ready to write your short stories, novel, poems, memoir, family history, comics, graphic novel or other stories. ***(PR)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars that run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Oct. 21, 2021-How to get Women Owned Small Business Certified-WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

■ Oct. 28, 2021-SBA Mentor-Protege Program-The SBA Mentor-Protégé program is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

To register please visit: http://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Cui pleads the fifth

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Cui Li Jie, the former chairwoman of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, invoked her fifth amendment right during an evidentiary hearing last week at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Cui invoked her fifth amendment right when she was called to testify during an evidentiary hearing in the lawsuit filed by seven construction workers alleging labor violations.

The fifth amendment right essentially means the government cannot force an individual to provide information that could implicate themselves.

During the hearing last week, lawyers Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, who represent the seven construction workers, called Cui to testify before the court via videoconference.

Cui's lawyer, Clyde Lemons Jr., asserted his client's fifth amendment right.

Back on May 26, U.S District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona entered a default judgment in favor of the seven workers in the amount of $5,430,595.58 plus post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees against IPI.

To date, the plaintiffs claim the judgment remains unsatisfied in the amount of $5,430,595.58, plus post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees, meaning IPI has yet to make a single payment to the plaintiffs.

On Aug. 26, 2021, Manglona found Cui in contempt of court anew for failing to comply with a previous preservation order regarding Electronically Stored Information or ESI that she created or used, including emails, and ESI data sent or received by others on her behalf.

Because the $5.4-million default judgment in favor of the plaintiffs remain unsatisfied, all the ESI data held by the former IPI chair remain relevant to the proceedings.

The seven construction workers who filed the suit against IPI and its former contractor and subcontractor, MCC International and Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, both of which have already settled with the plaintiffs, include: Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan.

DOI awards $4.09M to help combat brown tree snakes

» $1.8 million will be used to counter other invasive species in other territories

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $4,095,922 million in Brown Tree Snake Control program fiscal year 2021 funding as administered through the Technical Assistance Program. An additional amount of $1,791,421 from Coral Reef and Natural Resources fiscal year 2021 funds was also announced earlier this year for the purpose of controlling and mitigating other invasive species in the insular areas besides the brown tree snake.

"Islands are particularly vulnerable to invasive species that disrupt natural, long-standing biological processes and threaten our unique, island eco-systems," said deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa. "Each year, OIA provides significant funds to critical efforts seeking to help restore balance."

The Brown Tree Snake Control program FY 2021 funding was divided among several governments and federal partners to include Guam, the CNMI, Hawaii, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior as follows:

- Guam's Department of Agriculture for interdiction and control - $100,000
- Guam Power Authority for BTS Data Collection - $70,389
- CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources for interdiction and control - $407,950
- Hawaii Department of Agriculture for interdiction and control - $288,706
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services includes interdiction and control on Guam and Cocos Island - $1,205,590
- USDA National Wildlife Research Center for research - $649,842
- U.S. Geological Survey for research - $1,055,522
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for program coordination - $317,923

As announced previously, $1,541,421 in fiscal year 2021 funds was provided under the Coral Reef and Natural Resources to counter invasive species in the insular areas.

- University of Guam for Invasive Species Detector Dog pilot program to include detection of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle - $866,423
- Micronesia Conservation Trust, a regional non-governmental organization, for the eradication, control, and management of invasive species in Kosrae, Chuuk, and Yap - $300,000
- Island Conservation, a non-profit organization, for the removal of invasive rats in Mili Atoll, Marshall Islands - $299,838
- CNMI Government for Sabana Pandanus Forest control and native trees restoration project - $75,160

An additional amount of $250,000 in emergency funding was also provided in fiscal year 2021 funding to help the CNMI control and mitigate the spread of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on Rota.

For more information about OIA funds provided to counter invasive species visit: https://www.doi.gov/oia/coral-reef-and-natural-resources-initiative. ***(PR)***

Kilili: Full-time Vet Center counselor will soon be assigned to Marianas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that a full-time Vet Center counselor will soon be assigned to the Marianas.

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that Dr. Steven Lieberman, acting Veterans Affairs Health Undersecretary, briefed him on the VA's plans to assign a full-time Vet Center counselor to the Commonwealth.

Currently, Guam Vet Center staff periodically visit the islands to meet veterans.

Sablan's legislation, signed into law last October, mandated VA to report on its plans to provide these services in the Marianas and other areas that have no Vet Center.

"This position has been a long time coming; but Marianas veterans will have a counselor right here at home to help them and their families readjust to civilian life and provide mental health services," he said.

Sablan's bill expands Vet Center services—specifically, readjustment counseling and other mental health care—which underscores the need for the Department of Veterans Affairs to explain how they will make sure Marianas veterans are treated equally.

Meanwhile, Sablan said U.S. Congress provided Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer benefits to the Marianas in the continuing resolution last October.

He said families with children in school or in childcare can receive P-EBT food aid covering summer 2021, following the U.S. Food and Nutrition Service's approval of the Commonwealth's plan.

The delegate said this follows Food and Nutrition Service's approval in April of Commonwealth's plan to provide P-EBT benefits through June 2021.

He said P-EBT helps pay the cost of meals that students would have received if they had been attending school in-person.

The Nutrition Assistance Program of the CNMI Department of Community & Culture Affairs began distributing P-EBT benefits on Saipan last Aug. 10.

NAP administrator Walter Macaranas announced Friday the release starting Nov. 13, 2021, of the Summer P-EBT, which is an extension of P-EBT for school year 2020-21.

P-EBT is a federal program that provides NAP benefits to school-aged children who lost access to school meals because their school was closed or operating with reduced in-person attendance due to COVID-19 covering for school year 2020-21.

MAN

From Page 1

ning, said in a lengthy post on social media just hours before his arrest that he left Kanoa because he did not agree with the COVID-19 Task Force's quarantine protocols for non-vaccinated individuals.

"I don't accept this. I refuse to be treated like cattle. I have better things to do than sit here eating food that somebody else paid for in a room that somebody else paid for, to protect vaccinated people from a virus I don't have. I am not going to be violent or fight anybody, but I will not be kept here voluntarily any longer. If the task force thinks healthy people who have already recovered from COVID and had two negative tests with no symptoms should be kept locked up almost two weeks, then they can arrest me and make their case in court. Maybe that is the rule, but the rule sucks and needs to be changed," he states in his post.

Butterfield also noted in his post that he is not vaccinated and has caught COVID-19 but has since recovered.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said in a statement that Public Health Emergency regulations allow for enforcement like arrest to protect the well-being of the community.

"The Public Health Emergency regulations allow for enforcement. When a public health emergency is declared, an individual can be arrested if violating isolation protocols, for the safety of the community," he said.

According to the renewed executive order regarding COVID-19 safety measures issued by the Office of the Governor, violators of the mandatory quarantine protocol will receive a maximum sentence of no more than one-year imprisonment, and/or no more than a $500 fine.

The entry requirement that took effect back last Sept. 24 states that all inbound travelers originating from a Level 3 or higher jurisdiction on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention travel recommendations list who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are required to quarantine for seven days in a designated government facility if they submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival, or 10 days if they do not submit a negative PCR test dated no earlier than 48 hours prior to arrival.

Fully vaccinated travelers are still required to quarantine for five days in a designated government facility.

The revised entry requirements for unvaccinated travelers is based on guidance from the CDC.

CMS

From Page 1

dialysis, and the laboratory. At the time, the hospital had 13 conditional findings. In January 2014, the laboratory termination status was removed, and in September 2014, the termination status for dialysis was removed. CMS conducted resurveys of the hospital in April 2019 and May 2021. A validation survey was conducted in September 2021.

"The investments in our hospital, both in personnel and in infrastructure, are essential in bringing the hospital to meeting the standards of safe, accessible, and quality care. Despite our hospital being hit with challenges after the initial termination status, from two super typhoons and the pandemic, that investment and our staff and management's commitment to our patients led to chipping away the conditional findings, meeting standards of care, and finally achieving this rescission," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña. "Our hard-working hospital staff put a lot of effort into getting here and we are so proud of them."

CHCC board of trustees chair Lauri B. Ogumoro also extended her congratulations and thank you to the hard-working staff of the hospital. "This is excellent news for our hospital and the community we serve. This shows what can be accomplished, and we must continue to strive to exceed expectations every day for every patient who comes through our doors," she said.

Approximately 75% of CHCC patients are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, and other government insurers. The hospital does not turn anyone away for their inability to pay. ***(PR)***

FUKUSHIMA

From Page 1

office, Fumio Kishida said his government would work to reassure residents nearby the plant about the technical safety of the wastewater disposal project.

The Fukushima Daiichi plant suffered a triple meltdown in 2011 following a massive earthquake and tsunami.

Kishida's brief tour of the facility by its operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, focused on the ongoing decommissioning of the plant, and the massive amount of treated but still radioactive water stored there.

"I felt strongly that the water issue is a crucial one that should not be pushed back," Kishida told reporters after the tour.

The government and TEPCO announced plans in April to start releasing the water into the Pacific Ocean in the spring of 2023 over the span of decades.

The plan has been fiercely opposed by fishermen, residents and Japan's neighbors, including China and South Korea.

Contaminated cooling water has continued to leak from the damaged reactors since the disaster. The water has been pumped up from basements and stored in about 1,000 tanks which the operator says will reach their capacity late next year.

Japanese officials say disposal of the water is indispensable for the plant cleanup, and that its release into the ocean is the most realistic option.

Kishida said the government will do its utmost to address concerns the water disposal will hurt local fishing and other industries.

"We will provide explanation about the safety (of the disposal) from a scientific viewpoint and transparency in order to dispel various concerns," Kishida said.

Japan has requested assistance by the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure the discharge meets global safety standards, including treating the wastewater so its radioactivity levels are below legal limits.

Summer P-EBT to be issued in November

The CNMI's plan to operate the Summer Pandemic Electronic Benefits, or Summer P-EBT, for 55 days of summer has been approved and will be issued in November.

Under the plan, which was approved last Oct. 8, 2021, the criteria for eligibility for summer benefits requires that the student or child was actively enrolled in a covered school during the last month of the school year, which is school year 2020-21. This means high school students who remained enrolled during the last month of the school year and graduated would still be eligible for summer benefits.

Summer P-EBT is an extension of P-EBT for school year 2020-21. P-EBT is a program that provides Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to school-aged children who lost access to school meals because their school was closed or operating with reduced in-person attendance due to COVID-19 covering for school year 2020-21. The American Rescue Plan, which amended the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, authorizes the USDA secretary to permit a state to extend its P-EBT plan during the summer.

A covered school is a school that receives School Breakfast Meals and National School Lunch Meals, either free or reduced-price, from the PSS Child Nutrition Program.

For most CNMI schools, the last month of the school year was May or June 2021. However, those who graduated earlier and those who dropped out of school will not be eligible for summer benefits.

Summer benefits is also extended to Nutrition Assistance Program children under the age of 6; however, the child must be an active recipient during any of the summer months such as June, July or August 2021.

This means that if the child who is under the age of 6 was a recipient in June 2021 but not July and August 2021, the child would be eligible for summer benefits. In another example, if the child was a recipient in July but not in June or August, that child would still be eligible for summer benefits. In the same manner, if the child was a recipient only during August, the child would be eligible for summer benefits.

Applications for summer P-EBT will not be required for households who already received regular P-EBT benefits. There won't be a need for applications from households who received the regular P-EBT. Summer benefits will automatically be processed for eligible children. However, households who missed to submit an application for the regular P-EBT program will be required to submit an application for the Summer P-EBT program.

Further, there were instances that a household inadvertently did not include a child or children during the regular P-EBT application period and therefore did not receive regular P-EBT benefits for their children. For these instances, the household will be required to submit an application for the missing children in order to receive summer benefits.

Applications can only be picked up at the NAP office located at the JTV Commercial Building on As Lito, Saipan, at the Public Gymnasium on San Jose, Tinian, or at the NAP Office on Songsong, Rota.

Applications will be available for pick up during business hours from 7:30am to 4:30pm from Oct. 18 to Nov. 30, 2021. Applications must be submitted in person with a copy of their valid photo ID at these locations by November 30, 2021 no later than 4:30 p.m. There will be no extensions. The reimbursement amount for summer benefits will be the same for each eligible child, regardless of whether they were enrolled in public or private school. Each eligible child will receive $438 for the summer. The summer benefits will be provided in the form of NAP coupons and will be valid through March 31, 2022. NAP will begin distributing summer benefits on Saturday, Nov. 13, up to Nov. 20, 2021, from 8am to 6pm to families on Saipan via drive-thru at the As Lito office. Distribution schedule for Tinian and Rota will be announced at a later date.

The distribution on Saipan will be issued based on the "last name" of the head of household who was designated as the parent or legal guardian on their children's school record.

"Open day" is the designated date for households who weren't able to pick up their benefits on their scheduled date. After these dates and through March 31, 2022, households are permitted to walk-in to the Benefit Issuance Section at the NAP As Lito office from 8am to 3pm. Face masks or face covering will be required upon entering the building.

Identification will be required to be presented upon receiving the benefit. Households will be required to provide a valid photo identification such as a driver's license, passport, municipal ID, U.S. permanent resident card, etc. The ID must have a valid date (not expired). The identity of the parent or legal guardian will be verified against the list of eligible households.

For more information about the summer P-EBT program, call the P-EBT contact center at 287-3063, 3064 or 3065. ***(PR)***

Benefits will be issued according to the first letter of the head of household's last name per the following schedule:

First Letter of the Last Name	Date	Day
'A' to 'B'	November 13th	Saturday
'C' to 'D'	November 14th	Sunday
'E' to 'K'	November 15th	Monday
'L' to 'N'	November 16th	Tuesday
'O' to 'R'	November 17th	Wednesday
'S' to 'T'	November 18th	Thursday
'U' to 'Z'	November 19th	Friday
OPEN DAY'	November 20th	Saturday

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Democratic Party of NMI opens nominations period

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is an inclusive political organization and in keeping with its bylaws hereby makes the following public announcement:

For the next 14 consecutive days (two weeks), the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is accepting nominations of candidates, and letters of intent from any individuals interested in seeking election, for any of these public offices: governor, lieutenant governor, and CNMI delegate to US Congress. Nominations and letters of intent for these offices must be received on or before Monday, Nov. 1, 2021.

Similarly, nominations of candidates, and letters of intent from any individuals interested in seeking election, will be accepted for any of these public offices: Senate, House of Representatives, mayor of Saipan, mayor of Tinian, mayor of Rota, and mayor of the Northern Islands. The deadlines for nominations and letters of intent for these offices will be announced at a later time.

All nominations and letters of intent must be submitted to party chair Nola Kileleman Hix via email at chairwoman@nmidems.org.

All nominations and letters of intent timely received by the applicable deadlines will be referred to the party's Credentials Committee for thorough review. Those individuals deemed by the Credentials Committee as meeting the legal, constitutional, and party's bylaw requirements will be considered for nomination at the convention of the Democratic Party of the NMI. The convention will be open to the public. The party will endorse the most qualified and electable candidates. Further details about the convention will be published at a later time.

Those interested in more information are welcome to contact nmidems.sm@gmail.com, or call 484-3367(DEMS). ***(PR)***

'Online *Rakugo*' at Hyatt this Saturday

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rakugo, one of Japan's traditional performing arts that dates back to more than 400 years ago during the Edo period, will take center stage at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom this Saturday, Oct. 23, with an online live performance by Katsura Sunshine from 1pm to 5pm.

Hosted by the Consular Office of Japan in Saipan and the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, the "Online *Rakugo*" will showcase Sunshine, whose real name is Gregory Robic, a Canadian who initially went to Japan in 1999 to study *noh*, another form of traditional Japanese theater.

In *rakugo*, a story with a humorous ending is told by one person who will often play many characters and advance the story through hand gestures and many other physical movements.

Robic, who graduated from the University of Toronto and currently resides in New York became an apprentice under well-known, traditional *rakugo* master Katsura Bunshi for three years. After his apprenticeship, Robic embarked on a five-year world tour performing as Katsura Sunshine in five continents and 15 countries.

Due to limited capacity at the Hyatt ballroom, the consulate and the Japanese society ask those interested to confirm attendance by Friday, Oct. 22 by calling 670-323-7201 or 7202 or by emailing the consulate at cojsaipan@ag.mofa.go.jp.

New hours at AMP Visitor Center

Beginning Oct. 18, 2021, the American Memorial Park Visitor Center will have expanded days and hours of operation. The new schedule will be:

- Sunday: Closed
- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday: 12pm–4pm
- Friday and Saturday: 9am–4pm

The Pacific Historic Parks bookstore is also now open. The bookstore schedule is: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12pm–3pm.

The Visitor Center is free of charge and all are welcome to stop in, watch the park film, tour the exhibits, browse the bookstore and learn about the important role the Marianas played in World War II. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2022-001

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: November 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase of Two (2) Brush Fire Truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS

Project package will be available on October 19, 2021, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

NMHC IFB 2022-002

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: November 18, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Purchase and Installation of a Generator for the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office

Project package will be available on October 19, 2021, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-CCP-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 20, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE – TINIAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CURRENCY EXCHANGE SERVICES FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-RFP-001-21
CPA Concession No.: SCX-2021-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from firms, companies, and/or corporations for currency exchange services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. This concession is for the exclusive right to offer currency exchange, travel insurance, and other related services as applicable, including, but not limited to, the sale and purchase of foreign currency banknotes, drafts, money transfer, travelers check, and any other travel related products that are not related products precluded by other concessionaire agreements in the Airport.

The RFP will be issued and available for pick-up beginning **October 07, 2021**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on holidays. The RFP includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Prospective proposers will be required to pay a non-refundable administrative fee of $50.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the proposal. Payments are accepted in the form of cash, credit card, and certified cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than **October 25, 2021.**

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"RFP TECHNICAL SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL; CONCESSION NO. SXC-2021-01."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the technical proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, November 18, 2021**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. Proposers that submit proposals deemed to be Sufficiently Acceptable pursuant to the terms of this RFP will be invited to submit Price Bids and will be notified of the time, date, and location for submittal of such Price Bids.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

10/04/21
Date

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Caller Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 664-1708 |
Fax: (670) 664-1710 | Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp
VISION: "To promote a workforce development system that meets the need of businesses, job seekers and workers to support a strong and vibrant economy in the CNMI."

Regular General Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm
Venue: Hyatt Giovanni's Private Room*

*Note: Due to Covid-19 safety measures, in-person attendance is limited to members of the State Workforce Development Board. Virtual attendance is available to members of the public interested in attending or making public comments. Please email cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp for the link prior to the meeting. You must have access to a computer to participate.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of October 21, 2021
IV. Review and Adoption of September 17, 2021 General Membership Meeting Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Director's Report
VII. Old Business
  a. Business Needs Assessment Final Results
  b. Eligible Training Provider Application
    1. Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI)
  c. Public Comments on Proposed Policy Changes
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Announcements
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

Approved by:
/s/ Josephine DLG. Mesta
Chair

This advertisement is paid in full through a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 | www.marianas.edu

SUPPLY and DELIVERY OF VEHICLE INVITATION FOR BIDS NMC IFB 22-0001

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed Bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) 4X4 Crew Cab, Long bed Pickup Truck.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the NMC **Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing October 12, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m.** for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Sealed Bids Submission:
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, November 12, 2021 (CNMI).

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities- Disaster Grant, Case Number 62-005-91982292

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

NMC to highlight degree programs in series of information sessions

Interested community members who are seeking to advance their careers and their futures are invited to attend the free information sessions that the Northern Marianas College will be hosting.

Each info session will be held at 5pm at the Olympio T. Borja Library on NMC's As Terlaje campus. The dates are as follows:

- Oct. 19, 2021 – General admissions information
- Oct. 21, 2021 – Business Program
- Oct. 26, 2021 – Education Program
- Oct. 28, 2021 – Nursing Program
- Nov. 2, 2021 – Natural Resource Management Program
- Nov. 9, 2021 – Social Work Program
- Nov. 16, 2021 – Criminal Justice Program/Fire Academy
- Nov. 18, 2021 – Liberal Arts Program

Each info session will feature a degree program that is available at NMC. Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2022 semester, a savings of about $75. As part of NMC's COVID-19 safety protocols, participants are asked to wear masks or face coverings when on campus.

NMC's spring 2022 semester begins on Jan. 18, 2022. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply now to register for courses and for financial aid. Currently, up to $3,247 is available in federal financial aid to qualified students.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2022 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

EEOC adds seven new translations for its website

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced last Friday that key online resource documents have been translated into seven additional languages and are now available to help improve access for people with limited English proficiency.

In addition to the existing Spanish translations, the EEOC provides key documents, fact sheets, and publications in Arabic, simplified Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese on eeoc.gov.

"The United States is growing ever richer in its diversity," said EEOC chair Charlotte A. Burrows. "The EEOC is committed to ensuring that all workers and job seekers understand their right to be free from illegal harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Providing EEOC resources in additional languages reflective of our national diversity is critical to that commitment."

In its governing statute, the EEOC has a mandate to conduct educational and outreach activities targeted to individuals who historically have been victims of employment discrimination, including those employees who read and speak in languages other than English.

The seven new languages were selected based on needs identified by EEOC's field offices, as well as data from the U.S. Census Bureau on populations with limited English proficiency. In the future, the agency will continue to identify additional languages that should be made available in order to better serve the public.

The EEOC has long recognized the importance of educating workers who speak languages other than English about their rights and how to reach the EEOC for assistance—and that these protections apply regardless of a person's immigration or citizenship status.

The EEOC advances opportunity in the workplace by enforcing federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. More information is available at www.eeoc.gov. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on October 20, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from September 30, 2021

II. Public Comment (s)

III. Committee Reports
a. Committee on Awards
b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
d. Committee on Program and Development
e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs

IV. Administrator's Report

V. Chairman's Report

VI. Old Business
1. None

VII. New Business
1. Fall 2021 application status

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Miscellaneous Matters

X. Next Meeting

XI. Adjournment

/s/ Oscar M. Babauta,
Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

Open enrollment for government health insurance

The Department of Finance announced Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, that the open enrollment period for the CNMI Government Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund will be from Oct. 25, 2021, to Dec. 10, 2021, for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said affordable and accessible healthcare coverage is a vital priority for the administration, adding that it is important for employees and retirees to take advantage of the opportunity.

"Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I consider healthcare coverage a necessity for our government employees and, of course, our retirees. We encourage all government employees to take advantage of this as it safeguards families from the potentially high cost of unforeseen medical needs," said Torres.

According to Finance Secretary David Atalig, "We are pleased that we are able to continue to offer employees, retirees and their families quality health insurance options."

Atalig encourages government employees to take advantage of this enrollment period to ensure each employee and their families have the necessary resources to cover their healthcare expenses.

Pacifica Insurance, general agent for Aetna Insurance in Susupe at the first floor of the Joeten Center, will be available to assist new and existing members. For more information, call (670) 234-6267 option 3. ***(PR)***

Active Employees	High	Low	Basic
Employee	$ 80.35	$ 25.66	$ 2.21
Employee +1 Dependent	$ 164.72	$ 52.60	$ 4.54
Employee + Family	$ 257.12	$ 82.10	$ 7.07
Retirees	**High**	**Low**	**Basic**
Employee	$ 87.05	$ 27.80	$ 2.40
Employee +1 Dependent	$ 178.44	$ 56.99	$ 4.92
Employee + Family	$ 278.55	$ 88.94	$ 7.66

Voter turnout for special election 'as expected'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 2,025 voters, or 58% of Precinct 3's registered number of voters, participated in the special election to fill a Precinct 3 House seat that was vacated following the sudden passing of Rep. Ivan Alafanso Blanco (R-Saipan).

This turnout was actually not surprising. Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol said in an interview last Saturday that she expected a voter turnout of around 60%.

"Voter turnout was 58%. ...I did expect that, and I was going to be surprised if it was over 60%," she said.

Voter turnout in CNMI elections are typically high only during general elections, when voters choose a whole raft from officials, notably the delegate, governor, lawmakers, and mayors. The voter turnout numbers typically drop during midterm and special elections.

When asked for possible reasons why voter turnout for this special election was relatively low, Igitol surmised that some voters in Precinct 3 may have simply chosen to not vote in the special election, and added that the special election does not count against registered voters' status if they failed to vote, whereas failure to vote in a general election will affect an individual's voter registration status.

Vying for a seat in Saturday's election was Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party. Magofna won 1,217-808.

The CEC tabulated and certified the election results last Saturday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Igitoil said the tabulation and the special election as a whole went smoothly. She lauded the CEC team, the voters, and the candidates for ensuring that the election process ran as intended. "It was a smooth election, we didn't have any major issues. Voters were cooperative, candidates as well, and I have a great team behind me," she added.

Tabulation began between 7:20 and 7:30pm last Saturday and that was completed at 9:35pm. Around an hour later, the CEC certified the special election results.

SAIPAN & NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION COMMITTEE ON ZONING
22nd NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Saipan Northern Islands Delegation Committee on Zoning would like to respectfully request for written comments from the community regarding the following three bills:

1. H.L.B. 22-13 entitled "To amend Section 413 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, to allow for concrete hollow block manufacturing for conditional use within "Village Commercial" zones; and for other purposes."

Constituents may find the local bill language and view the proposed changes online at: https://bit.ly/HLB22-13 Please know this address is case sensitive.
You may submit comments via google forms at this address: https://bit.ly/HLB22-13COMMENT *Please know this address is case sensitive.*

2. H.L.B. 22-22 entitled "To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 05 of 29 to rezone certain districts to "Mixed Commercial"; and for other purposes." Constituents may find the local bill language and view the proposed changes online at: https://bit.ly/HLB22-22 *Please know this address is case sensitive.*
You may submit comments via google forms at this address: https://bit.ly/HLB22-22comment *Please know this address is case sensitive.*

3. S.L.B. 22-09 entitled "To amend the Saipan Official Zoning Map sheet 23 of 29 to rezone certain districts to "Mixed Commercial" ; and for other purposes."
Constituents may find the local bill language and view the proposed changes online at: https://bit.ly/SLB2209
You may submit comments via google forms at this address: https://bit.ly/SLB2209COMMENTS *Please know this address is case sensitive.*

The SNILD committee on Zoning welcomes the general public to give comments regarding this change at the next Committee on Zoning meeting scheduled October 21, 2021at 1:30 PM in the House Chamber.

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, you may submit written comments via email to: rep.staffler@gmail.com OR at any of the bit.ly addresses above.

Please submit any comments on October 19, 2021 by the end of the work day, so that members will have time to review them prior to the meeting. Thank you for your consideration and time to give comments for these proposed legislation.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 207

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Distrust journalists? Here are 2 who risk everything for truth

Journalism is a high calling. We're not too meek to proclaim that. And our profession's current chapter of disruption and misinformation hasn't changed that truth. That's why we're celebrating journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov for the courageous work that brought them a Nobel Peace Prize.

Announcing the prize on Oct. 8, Norwegian Nobel Committee Chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen praised the journalists "for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace."

Ressa, 58, is founder of the Filipino digital news organization Rappler whose reporting has exposed corruption in President Rodrigo Duterte's government, and large-scale police killings related to the Philippine drug war. She was one of several journalists named Time Person of the Year in 2018. Ressa has faced years of legal battles with Filipino authorities.

Muratov, 59, is the editor-in-chief of the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which has angered the Kremlin with its own corruption investigations and its coverage of Russia's activities in Ukraine.

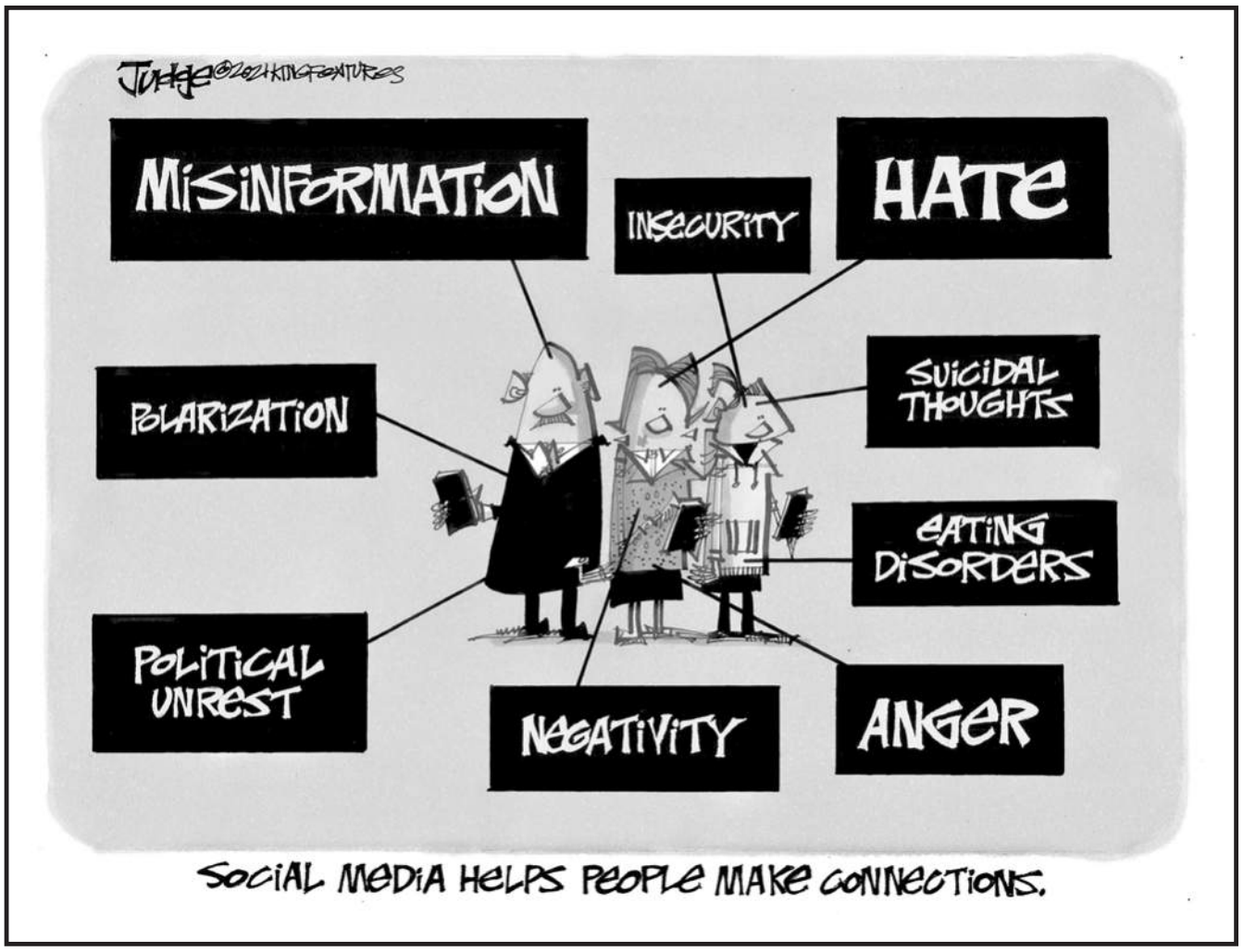
Both journalists work in countries with increasingly authoritarian governments led by powerful presidents. In recent years, Russian journalists have been forced to register as foreign agents, a designation that invites public contempt. Muratov dedicated his award to six journalists who have been killed for exposing human rights violations and corruption, Reuters reported.

This was the first time any journalist has won the award since 1935. It comes at a time when journalists are increasingly distrusted, even outside of authoritarian regimes. According to Gallup's annual ranking of the most trusted professions in America, journalists rank just above lawyers and just behind bankers. Perhaps no profession save NFL referee is second-guessed more than the modern journalist.

But distrust is not persecution. Although Reiss-Andersen called Ressa and Muratov "representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions," we don't identify their achievement as corresponding with the efforts of this newspaper or any other in the United States. Rather, we humbly recognize that being a journalist in America is not nearly as dangerous as it is in Russia or the Philippines. For that, we are grateful.

Most of the reporters we come to work with every day have not been imprisoned for speaking truth, have not had to register with the government, have not been escorted from the newsroom in handcuffs, have not huddled in dark rooms dreading a knock on the door from the police, military, KGB, Taliban, etc. We live in a country where freedom of the press is enshrined in our Constitution and, despite the assertions of the most bombastic political fringes about journalists being "the enemy of the people," continues to

See DISTRUST on Next Page



Washington's big spending plans promise much, but will they be worth the cost?

By RACHEL GRESZLER
The Heritage Foundation

Rachel Greszler is a research fellow in economics at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

There seems to be something for everyone in the massive spending packages now working their way through Congress. And with a price tag of $4.6 trillion, or $37,400 per household, offering something for everyone—be it government-paid family leave, monthly child payments, free community college, union dues write-offs, a $12,500 electric vehicle tax credit or new bike paths—is easy.

Politicians who want to grow government like to talk about how great this grab-bag will be for workers, for families and for the economy. And they promise that only big corporations and really wealthy people will pay higher taxes.

But that's like selling a souped-up Lincoln Navigator to a family that wants a minivan, reasoning that both require the same down payment.

Families deserve to know how much big-government policies will cost them—not only in taxes, but in how those policies will affect their paychecks and the prices they pay for everything from gas and groceries to utilities and child care.

Let's start with taxes, which already consume more of Americans' budgets than food, housing and clothing combined.

President Joe Biden promised that he wouldn't raise taxes on anyone making less than $400,000, but Congress's official nonpartisan scorekeepers said that his plan would raise taxes on millions of middle-class families.

Beginning in 2023, taxes would rise for nearly 6 million taxpayers that make less than $100,000. By 2027, more than half of all families earning between $75,000 and $100,000 would pay more in taxes. Taxes would even rise on hundreds of thousands of families making less than $20,000 a year.

Of course, taxes aren't the only thing that affects families' budgets.

The income that workers earn, and the prices they pay for goods and services, also determine a family's bottom line.

The proposed corporate tax rate of 26.5 percent would put the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage. Even China's Communist Party only levels a 25 percent corporate tax rate.

Corporations seem like an easy target for tax hikes because we tend to think of them in abstract ways—as corporate logos and big buildings. But logos and buildings don't pay taxes. People do.

Across the U.S., companies would be hit with large tax hikes that economists agree would mostly be paid for by employees of those businesses through lower wages, less work and fewer benefits.

If higher taxes and lower incomes weren't bad enough, another squeeze to families' budgets will be higher prices.

After $6.5 trillion in COVID-19 spending, and the Federal Reserve buying more than half of the massive increase in U.S. debt over the past year, the risks of inflation are high. Another $4.6 trillion in spending between the $1.1 trillion infrastructure package and the $3.5 trillion big government socialist package would further stoke inflation and fiscal crisis risks.

And finally, so-called green energy policies will drastically increase costs for ordinary Americans, while creating special benefits for wealthy Americans and corporations. For example, the current $2,500-$5,000 electronic vehicle (EV) tax credit that overwhelmingly benefits corporations, California residents and individuals with more than $100,000 of income would be increased to as much as $12,500, even as ordinary Americans receive zero tax credits—and higher energy bills.

While the Green New Deal is not included whole cloth, one of the deal's sponsors, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said that "the Green New Deal is in the DNA" of the $3.5 trillion reconciliation spending package.

According to an analysis from the Heritage Foundation, the Green New Deal would cost every American $1,991 per year over the next decade, or nearly $8,000 per year for a family of four.

Combined, higher taxes, lower incomes, higher prices and added energy costs could cost the typical American household $100,000 over the next decade.

Compared to $37,400 per household in new government spending, that's a pretty raw deal for ordinary Americans.

Instead of trying to sell Americans on policies that redistribute workers' earnings and redirect families choices, lawmakers should seek policies that help all Americans achieve rising incomes, and greater freedom to pursue the choices that are best for them.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Attorney general at war with free speech

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

It was a president named George Washington who said, "If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led like sheep to the slaughter," and right now Merrick Garland is leading us. Cheated out of a seat on the Supreme Court and failing as U.S. attorney general, the poor man is furthering the prospect of Americans having to shut up on public issues and thereby risking slaughter in the form of authoritarian governance.

What this official with a notable past has done is instruct the FBI to crack down on parents voicing criticisms of public schools at school board meetings even though this is an extraordinary abuse of power. Yes, some have threatened violence or something supposedly akin to it, but Garland has no right to intervene even when a crime is committed. That is the duty of local and state cops, not a federal government with constitutional restrictions

An instigating factor in this attack on free speech and rule of law was a ridiculously overwrought letter to the Biden administration from the National School Board Association. It hysterically said threats "could be the equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes," meaning parents caring for their children are the Ku Klux Klan in disguise.

Keep in mind that the letter cited only one example of actual violence and that some utterances cited by others don't seem to fill the law's criteria of something to make you quiver. Garland is nonetheless quivering.

He is employing the FBI and six other agencies of the Department of Justice to figure out how federal law enforcement instruments can be used to prosecute and help local cops on acts falling short of federal crimes. Under his miswrought guidance, the Justice Department will also train school board members on how to recognize, report and produce evidence when threats occur, again helping prosecution, dear old prosecution.

The message to parents is surely clear enough. If you go to a school board meeting to spell out your concerns and somehow offend a properly sensitized mind with anger or a politically unbecoming remark, you could maybe go to a highly publicized trial and who knows where after that.

Even if one disagrees with the point of view of some parents, it's a horror that the federal government would be threatening them more seriously than they are threatening anyone. And it's not as if they have no reason to be concerned about a wide range of issues with the one about race receiving special attention.

A perspective with growing instructional impact in a number of the nation's 14,000 school districts is that racism is deeply embedded in all our institutions and that whites are therefore privileged and Black Americans inevitably victims. Some schools are teaching that slavery has defined who and what we are more than anything and still persists as mass incarceration.

Some parents might say there has been change for the better and that individuals have human agency enough to walk away from racist attitudes. A voiced concern is that misplaced teaching might unfairly plague white students with guilt and Black American students with helplessness. Parents are concerned with public schools in other ways, such as wearing masks and how sex is taught. The idea of school choice is growing in popularity.

Garland? It was terrible that Republicans denied him even a hearing as a Supreme Court nominee in the last year of the Obama administration, but how bad would he have been as a justice? It's now come up that a Garland son-in-law has had financial dealings helping schools in the kind of racial instruction parents have been arguing against, a conflict of interest. The foremost issue, however, is summed up in a second quote, this one from the English intellectual George Orwell: "If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

The fragile internet is a threat to the economy

By TAE KIM
Bloomberg Opinion

Tae Kim is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering technology. He previously covered technology for Barron's, following an earlier career as an equity analyst.*

It has been a rough few months for the internet.

In June, Fastly Inc.'s content delivery network failure forced some of the world's biggest e-commerce and media websites offline. Later, there were massive data breaches at T-Mobile US Inc. and Amazon.com Inc.'s Twitch streaming service. And last week, Facebook Inc.'s main social network, Instagram and WhatsApp were down for about six hours. Then on Friday, it happened again—albeit more briefly.

All the incidents had a common corporate response. It goes something like this: We are sorry, it was an unintentional configuration error, we'll do better next time! After Facebook's outage, the engineering director at security software firm Cloudflare Inc. called it a reminder about the fragile nature of internet, where millions of interconnected systems are dependent on each other to make it work.

There was a time in the early days of the web when these excuses would be acceptable. But the internet, and many of these companies, now constitute the backbone of the modern economy. Billions of consumers and millions of small businesses rely on Facebook's communication tools for daily living. If the web is held together by rubber bands and toothpicks, it's clear that the U.S. needs to take urgent action to mitigate those vulnerabilities.

What can be done? First, we should hold companies accountable when they fail to implement proper safeguards and security policies. The sheer frequency of the problems shows the industry, in aggregate, doesn't take the issue seriously. Companies don't prioritize the problem or invest enough to fix it. That's why it's important to make negligence much more painful by raising the size of financial penalties and increasing the liabilities for management teams.

T-Mobile is one of the most egregious examples. According to The Wall Street Journal, a self-proclaimed hacker said he was able to get inside the wireless carrier's systems through an unprotected router, with devastating consequences. The company revealed in August that personal data for nearly 50 million accounts were compromised—including some Social Security numbers and driver's licenses. Incredibly, this last incident is T-Mobile's fifth data breach over roughly the last three years.

Another possible fix would be to increase governmental oversight. With Facebook and Fastly saying their outages were based on simple employee errors, I shudder to consider the level of damage a rogue employee or a state-sponsored actor could cause. Similar to how the Federal Reserve's bank examiners aim to prevent systemic risk by working on-site at financial institutions, a new team of regulators should get authority to inspect key technology companies' redundancy and security plans. At a minimum, we need to do whatever it takes to reduce future human network configuration errors.

Yes, the Biden administration has acknowledged the importance of the country's internet vulnerabilities on national security and economy security grounds. But thus far, the White House has not done much to closely regulate the private sector other than to develop voluntary standards. Governments need to be more forceful.

We can't keep letting companies off the hook. There's much to be done to prevent the worst-case scenario from becoming a reality.

DISTRUST

From Page 8

protect democracy from "abuse of power, lies and war propaganda," as Reiss-Andersen said. That should never change.

But the environment in which journalists do their work has certainly changed. Ressa has been unrelenting in her criticisms, not just of the politically powerful, but of the current state of public debate.

"The kind of civil discourse that used to be necessary for democracy—one, we all agreed on facts, two, we actually exchanged ideas—this is gone," Ressa told Time.

We're optimistic enough to believe it's not gone forever. We hope this recognition promotes the prestige of the Fourth Estate, something that's certainly needed right now, especially among a generation of young people discovering the value of fact-based journalism.

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We can't abandon Yemen

By KATHY KELLY
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

Oct. 11 marked the official closure of the U.N. Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen (also known as the "Group of Experts").

For nearly four years, the Group of Experts has been investigating human rights violations in Yemen amidst ongoing conflict, which has resulted in more than 100,000 dead—including over 12,000 civilians—and over 4 million Yeminis displaced since 2014.

As Yeminis are bludgeoned by Saudi and U.S. airstrikes, drone attacks and constant warfare, access to food, shelter, safety, health care and education in the country remains precarious. And disbanding one of the primary international groups dedicated to protecting the basic human rights of Yemenis will only make matters worse.

"This is a major setback for all victims who have suffered serious violations during the armed conflict," the Group of Experts wrote in a statement the day after the U.N. Human Rights Council refused to extend a mandate for continuation of the group's work.

"The Council appears to be abandoning the people of Yemen," the statement says, adding that "victims of this tragic armed conflict should not be silenced by the decision of a few states."

Prior to the vote, there were indications that Saudi Arabia and its allies, such as Bahrain (which sits on the U.N. Human Rights Council), had increased lobbying efforts worldwide in a bid to do away with the Group of Experts. Actions of the Saudi-led coalition waging war against Yemen had been examined and reported on by the Group of Experts. Last year, the Saudi bid for a seat on the Human Rights Council was rejected, but Bahrain serves as its proxy.

Bahrain is a notorious human rights violator and a staunch member of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, which buys billions of dollars worth of weaponry from the United States and other countries to bomb Yemen's infrastructure, kill civilians and displace millions of people.

The Group of Experts' mission may have reached its end, but the fear and intimidation faced by Yemeni victims and witnesses will continue.

The Yemen Data Project, an independent nonprofit founded in 2016 that collects data on the war in Yemen, tallied the number of air raids this past September and found it had risen to the highest monthly rate since March.

Sirwah, a district in the Marib province, was—for the ninth consecutive month—the most heavily targeted district in Yemen, with 29 air raids recorded throughout September. To get a sense of scale, imagine a district the size of three city neighborhoods being bombed 29 times in one month. Without reports from the Yemen Data Project, the causes of the dire conditions in Sirwah could be shrouded in secrecy.

Intensified fighting continues to fuel large waves of displacement within the governorate, and sites populated by soaring numbers of refugees are routinely impacted by shelling and airstrikes.

I greatly hope The Yemen Data Project and all of the journalists and human rights activists passionately involved in opposing the war that rages in Yemen are recognized and become names that occasion respect, gratitude and support. I hope they'll continue documenting violations and abuse. But I know their work on the ground in Yemen will now be even more dangerous.

This is a time to increase, not abandon, attention to Yemenis trapped in war zones.

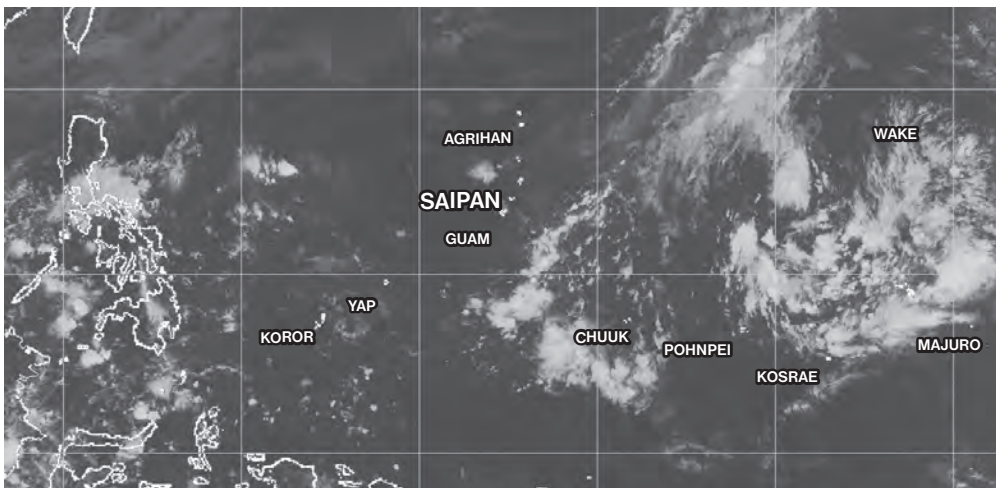
Kathy Kelly, a peace activist and author, co-coordinates the Ban Killer Drones campaign. She has worked for nearly a half a century to end military and economic wars. This column was produced for The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Lows around 77. chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds. highs around 87. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 30 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 20 percent.
87º / 77º	87º / 77º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:23 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light and variable winds with combined seas of 3 to 4 feet prevail throughout the Marianas. Radar is indicating isolated showers over the coastal waters. Another day of isolated thunderstorms are expected to occur near the islands today. Scattered showers are also expected tonight through Friday with the passage of a surface trough.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86 / 78 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87 / 78 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	88 / 79 °F
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	89 / 81 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	91 / 76 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	91 / 81 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86 / 81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:48 AM	5:11 PM
Wednesday	-	5:36 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	-	6:24 PM	6:23 PM
Friday	-	7:13 PM	7:01 PM
Satuday	-	8:02 PM	7:41 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	69 / 55 °F
Beijing	Fair	63 /39 °F
Hong Kong	Fair	78 / 74 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	77 / 74 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	62/ 61 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	59 / 57 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88 / 78 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	63 / 49 °F
Miami	Clear	80 / 70 °F
New York	Mostly Cloudy	54 / 51 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	68 / 53 °F
Paris	Clear	68 / 60 °F
Busan	Sunny	66 / 53 °F
Rome	Clear	74 / 47 °F
Salem	Clear	49 / 47 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	54 / 51 °F
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	59 / 48 °F
Tokyo	Fair	63 / 54 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	54 / 50 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:05 AM	Low Tide	0.45
6:49 AM	High Tide	1.69
1:01 PM	Low Tide	0.39
7:03 PM	High Tide	1.84

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

China's economic growth weakens amid construction slowdown

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth sank in the latest quarter as a construction slowdown and official curbs on energy use by factories weighed on the nation's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

The world's second-largest economy grew 4.9% over a year ago in the three months ending in September, down from the previous quarter's 7.9%, government data showed Monday. Factory output, retail sales and investment in construction and other fixed assets all weakened.

Growth is under pressure from government controls aimed at making the energy-hungry economy more efficient and at reducing reliance on debt that Chinese leaders worry is dangerously high and could cause financial problems. Manufacturing has been hampered by shortages of processor chips and other components due to the pandemic.

Compared with the previous quarter, the way other major economies are measured, output in the July-September period barely grew, expanding by just 0.2%. That was down from the April-June period's 1.2% and one of the weakest quarters of the past decade.

"Growth will slow further," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report. He said "ugly growth numbers" in coming months are likely to prompt Beijing to ease lending controls and try to prop up activity by encouraging infrastructure development.

AP

People walk along a riverbank near a commercial office buildings under construction in Tongzhou, outskirts of Beijing, Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.

Construction, an industry that supports millions of jobs, has slowed since regulators tightened control last year over borrowing by developers.

One of the biggest, Evergrande Group, is struggling to avoid defaulting on billions of dollars owed to bondholders. That has fueled fears about other developers, though economists say the threat to global financial markets is small.

Manufacturing has been depressed by power cuts imposed by some major provinces to avoid exceeding official efficiency goals.

Factory output barely grew in September, expanding by only 0.05% compared with August. That was down from the 7.3% growth for the first nine months of the year.

Private sector forecasters have cut their growth outlook this year for China, though they still expect about 8%, which would be among the world's strongest. The ruling Communist Party's official target is "more than 6%," which leaves Beijing room to keep its controls in place.

"The near-term outlook for China's economy in Q4 remains difficult, due to the expected impact of continuing power shortages going into the winter season and a continuing slowdown in the property sector," said Rajiv Biswas of IHS Market in a report. "The real estate sector continues to be hit by uncertainties relating to the Evergrande debt problems and fears of contagion to some other property developers."

This year's economic figures have been exaggerated due to comparison with 2020, when factories and stores were closed to fight the coronavirus.

The economy grew by a record 18.3% in the first quarter of 2021, but forecasters said the rebound already was leveling off.

In September, growth in retail spending weakened to 4.4% over a year earlier, down from 16.4% in the first nine months.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Coast Guard: 1,200-foot ship dragged California oil pipeline

Investigators believe a 1,200-foot (366-meter) cargo ship dragging anchor in rough seas caught an underwater oil pipeline and pulled it across the seafloor, months before a leak from the line fouled the Southern California coastline with crude. A team of federal investigators trying to chase down the cause of the spill boarded the Panama-registered MSC DANIT just hours after the massive ship arrived this weekend off the Port of Long Beach, the same area where the leak was discovered in early October. During a prior visit by the ship during a heavy storm in January, investigators believe its anchor dragged for an unknown distance before striking the 16-inch (40-centimeter) steel pipe, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. SondraKay Kneen said Sunday.

Facebook plans to hire 10,000 in EU to build 'metaverse'

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP)—Facebook says it plans to hire 10,000 workers in the European Union over the next five years to work on a new computing platform. The company said in a blog post Sunday that those high-skilled workers will help build "the metaverse," a futuristic notion for connecting people online that encompasses augmented and virtual reality. Facebook executives have been touting the metaverse as the next big thing after the mobile internet as they also contend with other matters such as antitrust crackdowns, the testimony of a whistleblowing former employee and concerns about how the company handles vaccine-related and political misinformation on its platform.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 010

Opening Date: 10/18/2021
Closing Date: 10/29/2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Human Resources Generalist**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Human Resources**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$37,756.00 - $50,970.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Generalist. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Gathers and analyzes pertinent employee information.
- Inputs data into system in a timely matter monitors and maintain information stored in data system andupdate data whenever it is needed.
- Generates all daily reports in a timely matter, i.e., daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports tothe immediate HR manager.
- Maintains and updates electronic and paper documents for the purpose of public information, trainings,meetings, case management and client information to the HR Manager.
- Responsible for keeping and organizing of filing system of all incoming and outgoing correspondences.
- Compiles and assist HR Manager in preparation and finalization of letters, memos and reports for eachdivision.
- Prepares request for personnel actions for signature of approving authority.
- Assists and/or participates in the preparation of applications and other documents and forms.
- Provides technical, analysis, research assistance of computer activities, problems, and issues.
- Familiarize and be able to maintain electronic technology provided by the department such as printers, fax,scanners, etc.
- Must be able to troubleshoot certain issues pertaining to electronics. Performs other duties of a similarnature and level as assigned.
- Perform other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

Education:
Bachelor's degree in Human Resources or directly related field and 4 years of general professional human resource-related experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology. Skill In: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:
o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
Physical Demands:
o Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling,pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org
(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IS SOLICITING APPLICANTS
FOR THE FOLLOWING STIPEND PROGRAM
CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM and EMERGENCY SHELTER

PARENTS Anonymous®
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ISLAND	ROTA
Children & Youth Program **Two (2) Program Workers**	**Children & Youth Program** **One (1) Program Worker**
Emergency Shelter **Four (4) Program Workers**	
STIPEND at $7.75 PER HOUR	

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Assist with Parent Education Classes, Parents Anonymous®, Inc. activities, After School Program, Youth Sessions, Parent Sessions, Community Sessions and the Emergency Shelter.
- Transport participants to and from program sessions.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be (18) years or older and enjoy being with children.
- Have 1 year experience in early childhood or school setting.
- Participate in training sessions provided by the Division of Youth Services.
- Commit at least twenty (20) hours per week to the assigned program.
- Commit to at least one (1) year to the Programs.
- Complete all necessary documents (Application form with Resume/Police Clearance/ Traffic Clearance/Business License/Tax ID Card Number, etc.)
- Have valid CNMI driver's license and a clear traffic record.
- Have not been convicted of a felony.
- Provide additional documents, if needed.

APPLICATION PICK UP: Kagman Community Center, DYS Administration Office in Capitol Hill
DOWNLOAD APPLICATION: www.dys.gov.mp or www.dcca.gov.mp
APPLICATION SUBMISSION: Kagman Community Center, DYS Administration Office in Capitol Hill
APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2021, 4:30 P.M.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Tanaka or Junnie Masga at 237-1017/1018 or through email at jtanaka@dys.gov.mp or jmasga@dys.gov.mp .

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

Nation

Fire crews make big gains against Southern California blaze

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Fire crews made significant progress overnight against a wildfire burning for nearly a week in Southern California coastal mountains, officials said Sunday.

More than 1,600 firefighters were battling the blaze in the Santa Ynez Mountains west of Santa Barbara on land and by air. They were able to stop its forward growth, and the blaze was 78% contained, federal officials said.

The Alisal Fire started last Monday and has scorched nearly 27 square miles (69 square kilometers). It is threatening about 400 structures.

A 1 1/2-acre (0.6 hectare) spot fire that ignited outside a retardant line on the blaze's northwestern corner was quickly contained by firefighters who used bulldozer and hand lines on the ground and doused the flames with water from the air. On Sunday, few hot spots remained, and fire crews were focused on increasing containment.

Cooler temperatures were forecast for Sunday, but winds with gusts around 20 mph (32 kph) were still expected in the area, officials said.

The fire erupted during fierce winds last week and spread rapidly down the face of the mountain range, leaping a highway and railroad to the beach below. Firefighting weather greatly improved since then, allowing airplanes and helicopters to bombard the fire with retardant and water.

California wildfires have scorched nearly 3,900 square miles (10,101 square kilometers) this year and destroyed more than 3,600 homes, businesses and other structures, according to the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

A historic drought in the American West tied to climate change is making wildfires harder to fight. It has killed millions of trees in California alone. Scientists say climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

HOMEBOUND AP

Former President Bill Clinton, and former first lady and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton thank members of the medical staff as he is released from the University of California Irvine Medical Center in Orange, Calif., Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021. Bill Clinton arrived Sunday at his home in New York to continue recovering from an infection that left him in treatment for six days at a Southern California hospital, officials said. The former president left the University of California Irvine Medical Center around 8 a.m. with Hillary Clinton on his arm. Dressed in jeans and a sports coat and wearing a face mask, he made his way out of the hospital slowly and stopped to shake hands with doctors and nurses lined up on the sidewalk. He gave a thumbs-up when a reporter asked how he was feeling, and he and Hillary Clinton then boarded a black SUV. They departed in a motorcade escorted by the California Highway Patrol and headed to the airport.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man, 19, arrested in shooting at high school football game

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Police in Alabama say a 19-year-old man has been arrested in a shooting that wounded five people near a stadium where a high school football game was being played. Mobile police said Jai Scott of Semmes, Alabama, was charged Saturday with five counts of attempted murder, news outlets reported. The motive for the shooting has not been announced. Police also released a blurry photograph of three people on the Mobile Police Department's Facebook page Saturday morning, describing them as persons of interest in the case. Police initially said four people were shot Friday night. The shooting occurred near the exit ramp at Ladd-Peebles Stadium, where Vigor and Williamson high schools were playing, Mobile police Chief Paul Prine told reporters. A Mobile Police Department spokeswoman did not immediately return a phone call Sunday from The Associated Press.

Arkansas officer kills 1 after knife attack, 2 others dead

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP)—Two people in Arkansas were found fatally stabbed and a third person was shot and killed by an officer whose neck was slashed after he found a man beating one of the stabbing victims with a rock, authorities said Sunday. It happened around 6:20 a.m., when Fort Smith police received a 911 call about a man assaulting a person who was on the ground. The responding officer discovered Christofer Conner beating a 15-year-old boy in the face and head with a rock, said Fort Smith Police Chief Danny Baker. Police in Fort Smith, located about 160 miles (260 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock, later determined the boy was Conner's son. As the officer tried to place Conner, 40, in restraints, the suspect pulled out an edged weapon and sliced the officer's throat and neck, Baker said. The officer then fired two shots at Conner, killing him.

1 killed, 7 hurt in shooting at Grambling State University

GRAMBLING, La. (AP)—One person was fatally shot and seven others were wounded Sunday at Grambling State University in the second deadly shooting at the Louisiana school within four days, officials said. The shooting happened around 1 a.m. Sunday on the campus quad, according to social media posts from the university. The person who died wasn't enrolled at the school, and the one victim who is a student was treated for injuries that were not life-threatening. The victims' identities haven't been released. Homecoming events on Sunday as well as classes on Monday and Tuesday were canceled. The university set a curfew from 9:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice. Early Wednesday morning, one person died and three others were wounded in a separate shooting on campus. The university said in a news release that the gunfire involved two people who weren't enrolled at the school. Two students in the vicinity received injuries that weren't life-threatening. Jatavious Carroll, 18, was named a suspect in that case, but has not yet been taken into custody, Louisiana State Police said in a news release Sunday evening. The agency is investigating both Grambling State shootings.

Freed murderer charged in Florida with slaying of single mom

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)—Police have charged a convicted murderer who was released from prison last year with the slaying of a South Florida woman whose body was found in a canal after being missing for three weeks.

Eric Pierson, 54, was charged Saturday with first-degree murder for the slaying of Erika Verdecia, 33, hours after her body was found Saturday near Fort Lauderdale. Sunrise police say Pierson confessed to stabbing the single mother four times with a screwdriver on Sept. 25.

Pierson had been released from prison in September 2020 after serving 27 years of a 40-year sentence for the 1993 beating and strangulation murder of 17-year-old Kristina Whitaker, whose death helped galvanize a push for longer prison sentences. He had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder.

Pierson

Florida did away with parole after the slaying, requiring convicts to serve at least 85% of their sentences. But the change could not be applied retroactively and Pierson was still eligible, leading to last year's release.

In 1985, Pierson had broken into a home and slit a woman's throat. He served four years of an 18-year sentence for first-degree attempted murder before being paroled.

Verdecia's mother told the South Florida SunSentinel she doesn't understand why Pierson was free to attack her daughter. Erika Verdecia leaves behind a 6-year-old daughter.

"Why is this guy in the streets? Why?" Carmen Verdecia told the newspaper. "He's going to pay this time. We're not going to stop until we see him in the electric chair."

Verdecia's family had reported her missing Sept. 27, three days after she left home and never returned. Her mother reached out to her friends on social media and one said she had seen Verdecia with a "grimy" man at a sandwich shop who told her his name was Eric Pierson.

Carmen Verdecia searched his name on the internet and was horrified to see newspaper stories about his earlier murder and attack.

"I flipped out," she said. "I told (police) my daughter was seen with a killer. And then they started looking for her. But it was too late."

Sunrise police said in court documents they had a brief interaction with Pierson and Verdecia during a Sept. 25 traffic stop—the day Pierson told detectives he killed her. She was a passenger in Pierson's truck and did not appear to be in distress, police said.

Jill Biden surprises her South Carolina 'prayer partner'

WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Jill Biden on Sunday returned to the South Carolina Baptist church where she says she began to repair her relationship with God following her son's death from brain cancer six years ago.

The first lady quietly flew to West Columbia for a surprise appearance at the 50th anniversary celebration for Pastor Charles B. Jackson Sr. of Brookland Baptist Church. But she ended up giving one of the most extensive explanations yet of how her faith wavered after Beau Biden's death and how she found her way back to God with help from her "prayer partner"—Robin Jackson, the pastor's wife.

Biden praised Charles Jackson for presiding over a ministry that helps feed the hungry, provides college scholarships and runs a health and wellness program. "You brought countless people to God's grace," she told him. "You remind us that we are the body of Christ."

But she opened her remarks by retelling the story of how she and Robin Jackson met, saying the relationship has "shaped my life."

They met in May 2019, shortly after Joe Biden visited the church with his wife after he announced his candidacy for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Both women have said Jackson approached Jill Biden and asked to pray with her.

"And I don't know if she sensed how moved I had been by the service," the first lady said Sunday. "I don't know if she could still see the grief that I feel still hides behind my smile."

Asia

In this Oct. 1, 2021, file photo, people walk through the famed Kabukicho entertainment district of Tokyo on the first night of the government's lifting of a coronavirus state of emergency. AP

Japan puzzles over its sudden virus success

TOKYO (AP)—Almost overnight, Japan has become a stunning, and somewhat mysterious, coronavirus success story.

Daily new COVID-19 cases have plummeted from a mid-August peak of nearly 6,000 in Tokyo, with caseloads in the densely populated capital now routinely below 100, an 11-month low.

The bars are packed, the trains are crowded, and the mood is celebratory, despite a general bafflement over what, exactly, is behind the sharp drop.

Japan, unlike other places in Europe and Asia, has never had anything close to a lockdown, just a series of relatively toothless states of emergency.

Some possible factors in Japan's success include a belated but remarkably rapid vaccination campaign, an emptying out of many nightlife areas as fears spread during the recent surge in cases, a widespread practice, well before the pandemic, of wearing masks and bad weather in late August that kept people home.

But with vaccine efficacy gradually waning and winter approaching, experts worry that without knowing what exactly why cases have dropped so drastically, Japan could face another wave like this summer, when hospitals overflowed with serious cases and deaths soared—though the numbers were lower than pre-vaccination levels.

Many credit the vaccination campaign, especially among younger people, for bringing infections down. Nearly 70 percent of the population is fully vaccinated.

"Rapid and intensive vaccinations in Japan among those younger than 64 might have created a temporary condition similar to herd-immunity," said Dr. Kazuhiro Tateda, a Toho University professor of virology.

Tateda noted that vaccination rates surged in July to September, just as the more infectious delta variant was spreading fast.

He cautioned, however, that breakthrough infections in the U.S., Britain and other places where inoculations began months earlier than in Japan show that vaccines alone are not perfect and efficacy gradually wears off.

Japan's vaccinations started in mid-February, with health workers and the elderly first in line. Shortages of imported vaccines kept progress slow until late May, when the supply stabilized and daily inoculation targets were raised to above 1 million doses to maximize protection before the July 23-Aug. 8 Olympics.

The number of daily shots rose to about 1.5 million in July, pushing vaccination rates from 15% in early July to 65% by early October, exceeding the 57% of the United States.

ASIA BRIEFS

Attack kills 2 civilians in Kashmir, amid rise in violence

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Two civilians were shot dead in Indian-controlled Kashmir late on Sunday, police said, in what authorities described as a militant attack. The region has witnessed a major uptick in violence targeting Indian civilians who hail from outside of the disputed Himalayan region. Police have blamed militants fighting against Indian rule for the attacks. A police statement said that two laborers were killed when militants "fired indiscriminately" in the southern district of Kulgam, with a third laborer critically wounded and taken to hospital. Officials said the dead were from the eastern state of Bihar.

Heavy rains, landslides leave 18 dead in south India

NEW DELHI (AP)—At least 18 people have died a day after torrential rains swept through villages and flooded roads in the southern Indian state of Kerala. Officials said rescuers recovered the bodies in two of the worst-hit districts, Kottayam and Idukki, where the heavy downpours triggered massive landslides, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency. The National Disaster Response Force and the Indian Army deployed teams to help with rescue efforts as several are still feared to be missing.

World

Notorious gang is blamed for kidnap of missionaries

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A notorious Haitian gang known for brazen kidnappings and killings was accused by police Sunday of abducting 17 missionaries from a U.S.-based organization. Five children were believed to be among those kidnapped, including a 2-year-old.

The 400 Mawozo gang kidnapped the group in Ganthier, a community that lies east of the capital of Port-au-Prince, Haitian police inspector Frantz Champagne told The Associated Press. The gang was blamed for kidnapping five priests and two nuns earlier this year in Haiti.

The gang, whose name roughly translates to 400 "inexperienced men," controls the Croix-des-Bouquets area that includes Ganthier, where they carry out kidnappings and carjackings and extort business owners, according to authorities.

Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries said the kidnapped group consisted of 16 U.S. citizens and one Canadian, for a total of five children, seven women and five men. The organization said they were on a trip to visit an orphanage.

"Join us in praying for those who are being held hostage, the kidnappers and the families, friends and churches of those affected," Christian Aid Ministries said in a statement. "As an organization, we commit this situation to God and trust him to see us through."

Haiti is once again struggling with a spike in gang-related kidnappings that had diminished in recent months, after President Jovenel Moïse was fatally shot at his private residence on July 7 and a 7.2-magnitude earthquake killed more than 2,200 people in August.

The missionary group offers Bible classes, runs a medical clinic, helps orphans and distributes seeds to farmers, among other efforts in Haiti, according to its annual report.

The report for last year said that American staff had returned to their base in Haiti after a nine-month absence "due to political unrest" and noted the "uncertainty and difficulties" that arise from such instability.

An AP team on Sunday visited the group's orphanage in Ganthier, where a couple of children were seen walking through a yard. A security guard confirmed that it was the place the kidnapped missionaries visited before they were abducted. The guard called the orphanage's pastor at the AP's request, but he declined to comment, saying only, "Let's leave things as they are."

Nearly a year ago, Haitian police issued a wanted poster for the gang's alleged leader, Wilson Joseph, on charges including murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, auto theft and the hijacking of trucks carrying goods. He goes by the nickname "Lanmò Sanjou," which means "death doesn't know which day it's coming."

Joseph, who could not be immediately reached for comment, has posted videos detailing the alleged crimes the gang has committed in recent years.

Christian Aid Ministries in Berlin, Ohio is seen here on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Fire erupts at Kuwait oil refinery; no casualties reported

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A fire erupted on Monday at a major oil refinery in Kuwait, the state-owned oil company said, reporting no immediate casualties. The blaze at the key Mina al-Ahmadi oil refinery along Kuwait's Persian Gulf coastline north of its border with Saudi Arabia did not impact electrical supply or oil exports, according to Kuwait's National Petroleum Company. The refinery handles 25,000 barrels of oil a day to supply Kuwait's domestic market primarily with gasoline and diesel. Firefighters were working to extinguish the blaze in the refinery's treatment unit, which removes sulfur from the oil products. Residents in Kuwait's coastal Fahaheel district reported hearing a large explosion and shared footage on social media of thick, black smoke billowing over the highway.

France commemorates the 1961 massacre of Algerians in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Hundreds of people, including Algerian protesters and their descendants, on Sunday commemorated the 60th anniversary of a bloody police crackdown in Paris during the final year of Algeria's independence war with its colonial power. The tribute march was organized in Paris to honor the victims of the Oct. 17, 1961 massacre of Algerians—which French authorities have sought to cover up for decades. The commemoration comes after French President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged that "crimes" committed that day were "inexcusable for the Republic." The move was part of steps taken by Macron to address France's brutal history with Algeria, which had been under French rule for 132 years until its independence in 1962.

Overdrive

(TOYOTA/TNS)
The Toyota RAV4 Prime.

2021 RAV4 Prime:

Saving energy with style—and speed

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

What's most stunning about the 2021 Toyota RAV4 Prime, a sporty plug-in hybrid, is not the exceptional mileage figures or the good looks.

It's the giddy-up: This thing sprints to 60 mph in just 5.5 seconds. That ranks second in the Toyota lineup only to the Supra, which races to 60 mph in 4 seconds flat. The Prime, for the record, is not a Supra. In fact, it's not even particularly agile, partly due to a softer suspension and 4,372-pound heft.

The RAV4 Prime is about shrinking carbon footprints and doing it in style. It starts with a true 42-mile range on electric alone, easily enough to handle errands and short commutes. And for those who worry about where the next charge is coming from, the Prime's gas engine is ready to kick in to complete the trip.

The Prime, like the RAV4 hybrid, has a 2.5-liter inline 4-cylinder engine that's capable of 177 horsepower and 165 pound-feet of torque. But this compact crossover also is mated to two electric motors and a CVT (continuously variable transmission) up front, and another motor at the rear axle for extra kick. The battery pack, stored under the rear seats, is far bigger than the regular hybrid's (18-kWh vs. 1.6-kWh), enabling the 42-mile range.

When everything works together, the Prime has a total output of 302 hp, compared to 219 hp in the regular hybrid. On the road, that translates to an amazing 5.5-second run to 60 mph and the quarter-mile in 14.1 seconds.

But few will call the Prime athletic. The softer-tuned suspension means some body roll on corners and curvy roads. The standard all-wheel-drive does improve grip and maintains ride comfort when the road gets bumpy. It's tow-rated at 2,500 pounds, more than enough to pull a Jet-Ski or motorcycle.

Two drive modes (EV/HV) allow driving under electric power only or with the gas engine adding an assist. Additional modes—Sport, Trail and Eco—allow tuning tweaks for more fun or to save a few bucks.

Juicing it up takes 12 hours from a 120-volt outlet, 4.5 hours with a 240-volt outlet. That's with the standard 3.3-kW onboard charger. Opt for a more capable 6.6-kW charger and get a full charge in just 2.5 hours when you plug into a 240-volt outlet.

So what's the net benefit? The EPA estimates 94 combined mpg-e, the calculation of mileage from a full electric charge plus gas operation. Gas-only travel still gets 40 mpg city, 36 highway and 38 combined.

The Prime gets all the exterior upgrades of the fifth-generation RAV4, including its boxier and more aggressive look. The Prime sports 19-inch wheels, flashing LED running lamps that encircle the headlights, and dual exhausts at the rear. Two-tone schemes are striking: Six colors from Supersonic Red to Blizzard Pearl match with a Gloss-Black or Midnight Black roof.

The five-seat cabin has ample head- and legroom even for taller folks. Seats are heated, ventilated and trimmed in a synthetic leather fabric, with accent stitching, that looks and feels like the real thing. The driver gets lumbar support, while rear seats recline—but not too much.

A 7-inch digital instrument display is flanked by analog gauges. The top-line XSE includes paddle shifters along with a moonroof and ambient lighting. Available within options packages are rear-view mirror-camera, surround-view camera and head-up display.

A 9-inch infotainment screen sits atop the center stack, within easy reach and easy enough to use. The resolution, however, isn't on par with others in the market. On the plus side, the system is compatible with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and an options package ($2,435) adds navigation and 11-speaker JBL premium stereo.

Since the battery pack is situated under the rear seats, more cargo space is made available. An optional hands-free lift gate accesses 33.5 cubic feet of space behind the second row, 63 with second row folded (nearly flat). There's a household-like power outlet in the rear, too, for camping or tailgating paraphernalia.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety gives the Prime good crash test scores, and it comes with adaptive cruise control, forward-collision warning with automatic braking, pedestrian detection and lane-keep assist. Optional are adaptive headlights and parking sensors.

With its cool look and flashy two-tone color schemes, folks will take gawk at the RAV4 Prime at the stoplight. But its eye-opening quickness when you pull away might be what they remember.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Toyota RAV4 Prime XSE

- **MSRP:** $41,425
- **As tested:** $49,800 (Includes navigation, premium stereo and heated seats and wheel, $2,435; Premium package with power seats/memory, 4-way adjustable passenger seat, surround-view cameras, hands-free lift gate, panoramic roof and upgraded on-board charger, $5,760)
- **What's all the excitement about?** RAV4 Prime turning heads with snazzy two-tone bod, startling quickness. Oh, and a $7,500 hybrid tax credit
- **Powertrain:** 2.5-liter inline 4-cylinder engine good for 177 hp and 165 pound-feet of torque; mated two electric motors and CVT transmission; total output of 302 horses
- **How's the performance?** Strong acceleration with 0-60 mph in a quick 5.5 seconds, quarter-mile in 14.1. Handling is uneven
- **Fuel economy:** 94 mpg-equivalent with electric/engine use; 40 mpg city, 36 highway, 38 combined if you never plug it in

MOTORMOUTH: Confused by different types of gas

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: Can you address the difference, if any, between non-oxygenated versus other gas? One gas station I use has regular octane 87, premium octane 92 and non-oxygenated octane 91. They say their premium gas contains some oxygenates (ethanol) but their non-oxygenated does not contain any ethanol and is even more expensive than the premium. Another brand station says their premium octane 92 is non-oxygenated, which I use in my outboard motor. This is really confusing. Is it one of those "depends" situation?

A: Let's get back to basics. All gasoline essentially is the same when it leaves the refinery. Additives are then introduced to increase the octane. No matter what is used, the octane rating is scientifically determined. Once upon a time, lead (tetraethyl lead) was blended in to increase the octane, but lead was eliminated beginning in the 1970s because it was a pollutant. It was replaced with MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), an oxygenate. Ethyl alcohol replaced MTBE. Derived from corn, it was cheap and aided the agriculture industry. Some fuel systems, particularly those using carburetors rather than fuel injection, can be damaged by alcohol. Toluene, which is not an oxygenate, increases octane rating and is used especially in racing gas.

Q: I have a new Honda CRV Hybrid and I'm wondering if leaving the key fob in the car when it's in the garage can keep the computer kind of awake while we're not using the car? Is it safe to keep it in the car or should we bring it in the house?

A: To be on the safe side, I always bring my fobs into the house, at least far enough so that touching the door will not unlock it.

Q: I have a 2017 Kia Cadenza SXL, which I love to drive. It came with low-profile tires, but I do not like the road feel driving over anything but smooth pavement. I tell people that if someone dropped a nickel in the road and I drove over it, I'd feel it in my teeth! I'm also very concerned that, without some adequate tire body under the wheel, severe wheel damage is sure to happen driving through Chicago potholes. Can I replace the tires with a more conventional tire or am I stuck with replacing the same type?

A: You may make the change, but you must maintain the same overall diameter as the original tire and wheel combination. Of course, you will lose the handling performance of your low-profile tires. I like performance, even if I drive over a dime and can tell if it's heads or tails.

Q: Is there a DIY way to add transmission fluid to a vehicle with a sealed transmission? I have developed a very small leak on my 2013 Volvo C70. It hasn't impacted performance yet, but I would imagine it's only a matter of time before it does.

A: Sealed transmissions are shifting the method for checking the fluid. No longer is there a dipstick. Instead, there is often an inspection plug on the side of the transmission. It helps to have the car on a lift to access said plug. This is how manual transmissions are checked on rear-wheel-drive cars. In some cases, special tools are required. And the fluid isn't cheap.

Life & Style

Shredded Banksy artwork sells for $25.4 million at auction

LONDON (AP)—A work by British street artist Banksy that sensationally self-shredded just after it sold at auction three years ago fetched almost 18.6 million pounds ($25.4 million) on Thursday—a record for the artist, and close to 20 times its pre-shredded price.

"Love is in the Bin" was offered by Sotheby's in London, with a presale estimate of 4 million pounds to 6 million pounds ($5.5 million to $8.2 million).

After a 10-minute bidding war involving nine bidders in the saleroom, online and by phone, it sold for three times the high estimate to an undisclosed buyer. The sale price of 18,582,000 pounds ($25,383,941) includes an auction-house fee known as a buyer's premium.

The piece consists of a half-shredded canvas in an ornate frame bearing a spray-painted image of a girl reaching for a heart-shaped red balloon.

When it last sold at Sotheby's in October 2018, the piece was known as "Girl With Balloon." Just as an anonymous female European buyer made the winning bid—for 1 million pounds ($1.4 million)—a hidden shredder embedded in the frame by Banksy whirred to life, leaving half the canvas hanging from the frame in strips.

Sotheby's received some criticism at the time for failing to spot the hidden shredder. But the 2018 buyer decided to go through with the purchase, a decision that was vindicated on Thursday as the work's price soared.

In this handout photo provided by Sotheby's Auction House, the auction for Banksy's "Love is the Bin" takes place in London, Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021. AP

The work quickly became one of Banksy's most famous, and Sotheby's sent it on tour to cities including New York and Hong Kong before Thursday's auction.

Auctioneer Oliver Barker joked that he was "terrified" to bring down the hammer to end Thursday's sale. There were jitters among Sotheby's staff to the last that Banksy had another surprise planned.

Alex Branczik. Sotheby's chairman of modern and contemporary art, called the shredding "one of the most ingenious moments of performance art this century."

"It has been a whirlwind to follow the journey of this now legendary piece and to have it back in our midst, offering it tonight in the very room it was created by the artist," Branczik said. "Banksy is no stranger to making headlines and this latest chapter in his story has captured imaginations across the world—we can only begin to guess what might come next."

Netflix employee fired in wake of Dave Chappelle special furor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Netflix said Friday that it had fired an employee for disclosing confidential financial information about what it paid for Dave Chappelle's comedy special "The Closer," which some condemned as being transphobic.

The employee, who wasn't named, shared "confidential, commercially sensitive information outside the company," a Netflix statement said.

"We understand this employee may have been motivated by disappointment and hurt with Netflix, but maintaining a culture of trust and transparency is core to our company," the statement said.

The statement said the information was referenced in a Bloomberg news article, which reported that Netflix spent $24.1 million on "The Closer," which first aired last week. The article also mentioned the lower budgets for a 2019 Chapelle special, a Bo Burnham special and the nine-episode hit "Squid Game."

Netflix said a review of its internal access logs pinpointed the information to a single person, who "admitted that they downloaded and shared sensitive company information externally."

"The Closer," first aired on Oct. 1 and had gained at least 10 million views. However, Chapelle's remarks about the transgender community raised protests within Netflix and from LGBTQ activists.

Kourtney Kardashian, Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker engaged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A day at the beach turned into a proposal for Kourtney Kardashian, who is now engaged to Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker.

Kardashian posted two photos on Instagram of the proposal with the caption "forever." A representative for the reality star and businesswoman confirmed Sunday that the couple are engaged. No other details were immediately available.

The images showed an elaborate floral arrangement and candles on the beach.

People magazine and celebrity website TMZ reported Barker arranged the proposal at a beach in Montecito, California, which is near Santa Barbara.

It will be Kardashian's first marriage. She has three children with ex-boyfriend Scott Disick. It will be Barker's third marriage.

The pair have been dating for several months, showing their affection for each other at public events as well as on Kardashian's Instagram page.

'Halloween Kills' carves out $50.4 million at box office

"Halloween Kills" may be available to watch at home, but the latest installment in the Michael Myers saga is making a killing at the North American box office in its first weekend in theaters. The David Gordon Green-directed horror scared up $50.4 million from 3,705 locations, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal's "Halloween Kills" far surpassed expectations, which had the film pegged for a more conservative debut in the $30 million range. It also easily bested its main competition, which included the James Bond pic "No Time to Die," in its second weekend, and Ridley Scott's medieval epic "The Last Duel." Both are playing exclusively in theaters.

The film picks up where Green's 2018 "Halloween" left off, on the same bloody night, with Jamie Lee Curtis back as Laurie Strode. Some were surprised when the studio made the decision to release "Halloween Kills" simultaneously in theaters and on NBC Universal's Peacock for premium subscribers, but the day-and-date strategy does not seem to have hurt its box office haul.

"David Gordon Green crafted an incredibly terrifying continuation of this franchise that our core audience was more than eager to come out to the theater to see," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution. "Audiences want to be out, they want to be in theaters, and they want to experience it communally."

Before "Halloween Kills," which had a reported $20 million production budget, the biggest day-and-date opening of the year was Warner Bros.' "Godzilla vs. Kong" which grossed $32.2 million in its first weekend while also being available on HBO Max.

Rape victim has kept it a secret for decades

DEAR ABBY: Thirty-five years ago I was raped by a stranger. He told me he would kill me if I ever told anyone. I never told my husband (now ex-), mostly because I was afraid if I did he would never touch me again. So I lived with the secret. It eventually tore our marriage apart and we divorced.

Although we have both moved on and remarried, we have remained in touch. I am 60 now and he is 64. I yearn to tell him the story before one of us leaves this Earth. I want him to understand and hopefully forgive me for the events that drove us apart. The need to tell him is so strong, I cry about it. Please advise me on this.

STILL NOT OVER IT IN MARYLAND

DEAR STILL NOT OVER: If it will bring you comfort, reveal the secret you hid from your ex-husband. However, before you do, I urge you to first disclose it to someone trained to help victims of rape. If there's a rape treatment center near you, please make an appointment. If there isn't one, a referral from your doctor to a licensed mental health professional would also be beneficial. Trust me on that.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married a year and a half, although we've been together off and on for more than 13 years. I sometimes get the feeling that he married me only because he was tired of being alone. He often compares me to his late wife, and he always commemorates both her birthday and the day she passed away.

What I have a problem with is, every year he posts happy birthday, and her name, on Facebook, but he never mentions my name on Facebook. Should I bring this up to him or just let him continue?

CURRENT WIFE IN TEXAS

DEAR CURRENT WIFE: The basis of a solid marriage is communication. By all means bring it up—all of it—and tell him how it makes you feel. He may be trying to keep his late wife's memory alive by wishing her happy birthday on Facebook, but as far as Facebook's reach may be, I'm pretty sure the messages don't reach the great beyond. That he would mention her birthday and not yours is insensitive. And comparing you to her, unless the comparison is favorable, is more of the same.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We invited friends over to enjoy our bounty from a successful fishing trip. They live about an hour away. They accepted our invitation, then followed up with, "Can you put us and our two dogs up overnight if we drink too much?" I replied that we meant the invitation for humans only this time. They replied, "We're sorry you don't want our well-behaved 'girls' in your newly remodeled home." And, Abby, they didn't come! Was I wrong? Should I have handled this better? I'm kind of feeling like they were wrong.

ANIMAL LOVER, BUT ...

DEAR LOVER: I'm also kind of feeling they overreacted. If you preferred they not bring uninvited guests, whether of the two-footed or four-footed variety, you were within your rights to refuse to have them. Please stop second-guessing yourself.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

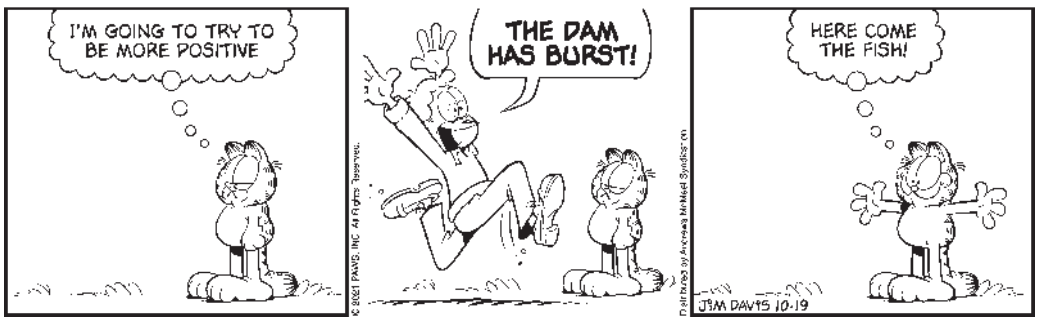
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

FISHING IS THE MOST BORING SPORT IN THE WORLD.
WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR TWENTY MINUTES AND NOT ONE THING HAS HAPPENED!
WAAUGHH!

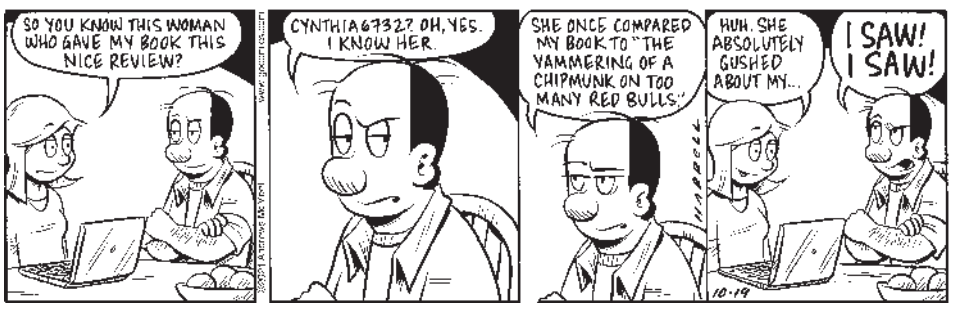
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN WHO GAVE MY BOOK THIS NICE REVIEW?
CYNTHIA67327 OH, YES. I KNOW HER.
SHE ONCE COMPARED MY BOOK TO "THE YAMMERING OF A CHIPMUNK ON TOO MANY RED BULLS."
HUH. SHE ABSOLUTELY GUSHED ABOUT MY...
I SAW! I SAW!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT'S THIS?
A SCIENCE PROGRAM, AND THEY'RE SHOWING A CHART OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST POLLUTERS.
IS THAT OUR HOUSE ON THE LINE BELOW CHINA?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO AIR OUT YOUR SWEAT SOCKS ON THE BACK PATIO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Auction
5 Adobe file format
8 Sings like Cardi B
12 Bloke
13 Melody
14 Vicinity
15 Multi-storied building
17 Mata —
18 Scepter
19 iPod accessory
21 Forbidden
24 Killer whale
25 Nobel Prize subj.
26 Like some socks
30 Lot vehicle
31 Those opposed
32 By way of
33 Gary Cooper Western
35 Mr. Disney
36 Formerly
37 Breath fresheners
38 Legendary "Jeopardy!" host
41 Congeal
42 Honker
43 Buy low, —
48 Franc replacer
49 Here (Fr.)
50 Biblical land
51 Fed. accident investigator
52 Auction signal
53 Leeway

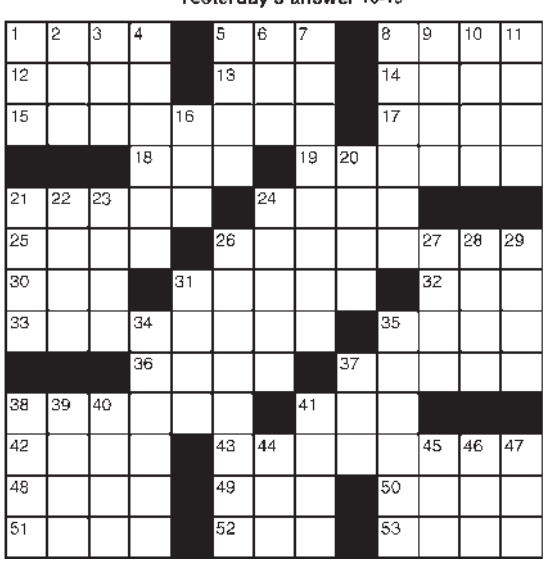
DOWN

1 Learning ctr.
2 Sashimi fish
3 Trail the pack
4 "Heart-burn" writer Nora
5 Settled the bill
6 Insult, slangily
7 Creative freedom
8 Gung-ho
9 The "A" of UAE
10 Andean land
11 Uttered
16 Aussie hopper
20 Experts
21 Computer pro
22 Exotic berry
23 McEnroe's rival
24 En pointe, in ballet
26 Causes a run to score
27 Infamous tsar
28 Coated with gold
29 Toppers
31 Writer Rice
34 Mingle
35 Shrivel up
37 Actor Brooks
38 Subsequently
39 Lopsided win
40 Messes up
41 Lost traction
44 Author Umberto
45 Altar promise
46 Sticky stuff
47 "Let me think ..."

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	A	B		S	W	E	A	R		P	A	R
O	N	O		T	E	M	P	E		R	U	E
B	A	D	H	A	B		T	S		O	R	E
			A	M	S		L	E	T	H	A	L
O	D	D	L	O	T		Y	E	T	I		
P	E	R		S	E	C		D	O	B	B	S
E	L		S		R	A	P		P	I	N	S
C	E	L	E	B		W	E	S		T	A	T
		L	E	I	S		T	H	E	S		S
S	U	B	S	E	T		F	A	B			
A	S			B	A	C	O	N	B	I	T	S
G	E	T		E	L		O	T		B	O	A
A	S	S		H	E	A	U	Y		M	O	O

Yesterday's answer 10-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gillian Jacobs, 39; Roger Cross, 52; Jon Favreau, 55; John Lithgow, 76.

Happy Birthday: Speak up and offer suggestions. It's time to be bold and upfront and to find out exactly where you stand. Put your plans in play. Take charge of your happiness, and you will discover a way to reach your goal. Life is about living, not just existing. Stand tall, be counted and do your part to secure your lot in life. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 26, 34, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Trust in your ability to get things done. A chance to invest in enhancing your skills and knowledge looks promising. A commitment from the heart will change the way you live. Romance is on the rise, and personal benefits will be yours. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Be cautious of offers that sound too good to be true. Research, and opt-out if you feel uncertain. Play it safe, sit tight and don't allow changes that take place to push you in a direction not suited to your schedule. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Speed up, and you'll reach your destination with plenty of time to spare. Your initiative will help encourage your pursuits. Expand your mind and skills, and good things will transpire. Make self-improvement a priority. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do something that brings you joy. The time you take to relax and rejuvenate will help you rethink your next move. A positive change is within reach if you reach out to someone who can help you with your objective. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Study something that intrigues you and engages your mind in ways you never thought possible. How you approach partnerships, business and money matters will prove beneficial if you are true to yourself and your long-term goals. Personal gain looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set up a reasonable budget. Consider investing in something that will help you bring in more cash. Adding to your qualifications or skills is favored. Stick close to home, and avoid the possibility of being subject to a health risk. Avoid temptation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a positive path that allows you to explore exciting avenues. Put the utmost into getting what you want, and refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Anger won't solve anything, but accomplishing what you set out to do will. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick to the rules, and avoid confusion and setbacks. Take a path that allows you to use your creativity to overcome indecisiveness. A change will daunt you, but in time and with patience, you will recognize benefits. Be open to suggestions. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Set high standards, and live up to your expectations. How you present what you want to do will activate and inspire others to pitch in and help. Use your intelligence and connections appropriately, and success will follow. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll face opposition, lots of questions that will be emotionally draining if you aren't swift to explain your actions and present reasonable solutions. Take control, but don't put demands on others. Handle change with optimism and finesse. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll have the stamina to get things done quickly and efficiently. Your progress and gains will help fund something you want to pursue or purchase to advance your agenda. Your power of persuasion will get results. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put your effort into self-improvement. Update your image, raise your awareness and do something that matters. How you use your time and clout will determine how much help others are willing to offer. Build a team you can trust. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, creative and passionate. You are friendly and spirited.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2			5			
			5		4			
7			8	3	2			1
	9	6				1	4	
		5		6		2		
	4	8				7	3	
4			3	5	7			2
			2		6			
		7				9		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/19

Yesterday's Answer

7	6	8	1	4	2	9	5	3
5	3	4	8	9	7	1	2	6
2	9	1	6	3	5	7	8	4
6	8	5	4	7	1	2	3	9
4	7	2	9	6	3	5	1	8
9	1	3	5	2	8	4	6	7
1	4	9	3	5	6	8	7	2
8	2	6	7	1	9	3	4	5
3	5	7	2	8	4	6	9	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CHARLIE WATTS (1941-2021) **Solution: 11 letters**

S	E	N	O	J	A	Z	Z	W	N	R	E	D	O	M
E	E	T	E	K	C	I	R	C	E	H	D	H	D	I
N	A	L	E	C	L	U	B	M	O	M	R	A	U	C
O	D	D	R	T	H	U	M	R	M	Ⓡ	B	L	K	K
T	I	O	V	A	N	A	S	B	Ⓤ	S	Y	L	E	T
S	S	D	O	I	H	E	R	Ⓞ	M	D	K	I	E	A
G	H	L	U	W	S	C	Ⓣ	L	R	C	G	H	L	Y
N	R	I	I	T	O	E	A	E	O	O	I	I	L	L
I	E	E	R	N	S	R	H	R	O	T	L	S	I	O
L	J	M	E	L	D	P	B	B	S	I	T	P	N	R
L	A	A	O	N	E	A	E	A	A	T	U	E	G	E
O	G	F	O	H	N	Y	M	N	O	P	M	E	T	U
R	G	V	S	J	E	V	A	D	E	S	O	L	O	S
R	E	D	O	L	T	O	N	N	A	T	T	U	N	E
D	R	S	E	R	A	P	H	I	N	A	I	R	B	D

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Advise, Attune, Band, Banjo, Boogie, Brian, Brow, Busy, Charles, Charlotte, Club, Cricket, Dave, Devon, Dolton, Duke Ellington, Fame, Green, Hall, Hits, Home, Horses, Jagger, Jazz, Jones, Lilian, Linda, Mick Taylor, Modern, Name, Pupil, Reused, Rock, Rolling Stones, Seraphina, Shepherd, Shirley Ann, Solos, Studio, Tempo, Tentet, Tour, Wembley, Whammer, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Running

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Cowboys get 1st win over Belichick's Patriots, 35-29 in OT

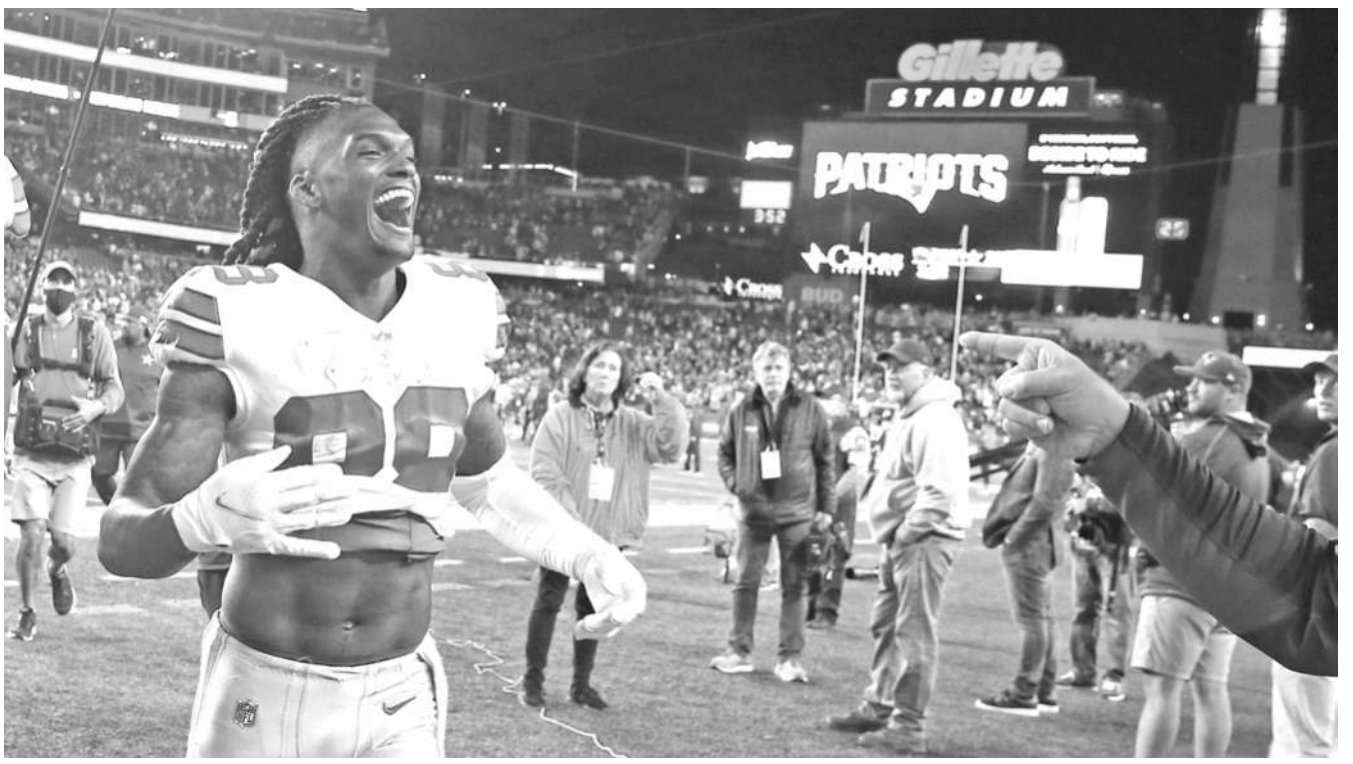
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Dak Prescott threw 35-yard touchdown pass to CeeDee Lamb in overtime, and the Dallas Cowboys survived a wild finish to beat New England 35-29 on Sunday, their first win over Bill Belichick's Patriots.

Dallas hadn't won at New England since 1987 and was 0-5 against Belichick. The Cowboys (5-1) have won five straight, their longest winning streak since 2016.

The Cowboys led 17-14 entering the fourth quarter, and that's when the fun began. The teams traded five scores in the period, three in the final 2 1/2 minutes.

New England (2-4) was clinging to a 21-20 lead when sensational Cowboys cornerback Trevon Diggs intercepted Mac Jones and returned it 42 yards for a touchdown — his seventh pick and second pick-six of the season — to put Dallas ahead 26-20. On the next play from scrimmage, Jones hit Kendrick Bourne for a 75-yard score. Jones hooked up with Jakobi Meyers for the 2-point conversion.

But Prescott led the Cowboys on a 40-yard drive and Greg Zuerlein's 49-yard field goal sent it to overtime. Dallas ended it after New England punted on its first possession as the Patriots dropped to 0-4 at home for the first time in Belichick's 22 years as coach.



AP

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver CeeDee Lamb (88) celebrates after defeating the New England Patriots after overtime of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, in Foxborough, Mass.

Raiders 34, Broncos 24

In Denver, Derek Carr sliced up the Denver defense for 341 yards and two touchdowns, Maxx Crosby made three sacks and the Raiders started the post-Jon Gruden era with a victory.

The Raiders (4-2) gave longtime special teams coordinator Rich Bisaccia a win in his debut as interim head coach and offensive coordinator Greg Olson was masterful in his first play-calling duties for Las Vegas since Carr's rookie season in 2014.

The Raiders began by ending an 11-game streak without a score on their opening drive. They never let up, burning the Broncos' beleaguered secondary that couldn't keep up with Carr and his targets.

Nor could Denver's deficient offense keep pace. Teddy Bridgewater threw a season-high three interceptions and lost a fumble, negating his 334 yards passing and three TDs.

The Broncos (3-3) lost their third consecutive game, but the other defeats came at the hands of Ravens and Steelers and their veteran head coaches John Harbaugh and Mike Tomlin. This one had to sting coach Vic Fangio, whose Broncos have a short week before a Thursday night game at Cleveland with the possibility they'll fall below .500 just 25 days after starting 3-0.

Steelers 23, Seahawks 20

In Pittsburgh, Chris Boswell hit a 36-yard field goal with 2:50 left in overtime to give Pittsburgh a win over Seattle.

Boswell's third field goal of the game came three plays after Steelers outside linebacker T.J. Watt forced Seattle quarterback Geno Smith to fumble deep in Seahawks territory. Pittsburgh inside linebacker Devin Bush scooped it up to give the Steelers possession. Two snaps to center the ball in the middle of the field set up Boswell to win it.

Pittsburgh (3-3) won its second straight thanks in large part to Watt, who collected two of his team's five sacks and helped the defense right itself after a third-quarter soon let the Seahawks rally from a 14-point halftime deficit.

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 229 yards and a touchdown and rookie running back Najee Harris added 83 yards rushing and caught his second scoring toss of the season. Eric Ebron scored the third rushing touchdown of his career.

Smith, starting in place of injured Russell Wilson, completed 23 of 32 passes for 209 yards and a touchdown in his first start in nearly four years. Alex Collins ran for 101 yards while filling in for injured starter Chris Carson, but Smith's late miscue dropped Seattle to 2-4.

Ravens 34, Chargers 6

In Baltimore, Lamar Jackson threw for 167 yards and a touchdown for Baltimore.

A week after scoring 47 points in a win over Cleveland, the Chargers (4-2) came up empty on their first five possessions and were held under 16 points for only the second time since drafting Herbert before last season.

The Ravens completely controlled this matchup of division leaders. Each of Baltimore's three veteran running backs — Latavius Murray, Le'Veon Bell and Devonta Freeman — scored a touchdown.

Jackson went 19 of 27 with two interceptions. Herbert was 22 of 39 for 195 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Although the much-anticipated clash between these two talented quarterbacks didn't live up to expectations, Baltimore (5-1) won with a total team effort.

Cardinals 37, Browns 14

In Cleveland, Kyler Murray threw four touchdown passes as the Cardinals remained the NFL's only unbeaten team and continued their best start since 1974.

The Cardinals (6-0) built a 20-0 lead in the first half and kept their perfect record intact despite not having coach Kliff Kingsbury or star linebacker Chandler Jones, who both tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

Murray connected with DeAndre Hopkins for two TDs, and Arizona's shifty quarterback came up with a clutch play whenever the Cardinals needed one.

The Browns (3-3) have lost two straight under coach Kevin Stefanski for the first time and Cleveland has bigger concerns, most notably to a growing list of major injuries. The latest was to running back Kareem Hunt, carted to the locker room in the fourth quarter with a calf injury.

Jaguars 23, Dolphins 20

In London, the Jaguars ended their 20-game losing streak when Matthew Wright kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired.

Trevor Lawrence connected on a short slant pass to Laviska Shenault Jr. and the Jags (1-5) called a timeout with 1 second remaining after the Dolphins (1-5) gambled on a fourth-and-1 from their 46 and came up short.

Lawrence threw for 319 yards and a touchdown as he and coach Urban Meyer finally earned their first NFL victories — even if it required a trip to Europe to get it done in a "home" game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Dolphins lost their fifth consecutive game, spoiling the return of Tua Tagovailoa, who made his first start in a month. The second-year quarterback threw two touchdown passes to Jaylen Waddle.

Vikings 34, Panthers 28, OT

In Charlotte, N.C., Kirk Cousins completed a 27-yard touchdown pass to K.J. Osborn on the first possession of overtime.

Cousins threw for 373 yards and three touchdowns against the league's top-ranked pass defense, Dalvin Cook ran for 140 yards and a score and the Vikings finally solved their second-half offensive woes. Adam Thielen had a number of big catches, finishing with 11 receptions for 126 yards and a touchdown.

The Vikings (3-3) had not scored a second-half touchdown in their previous four games, but Cook broke the streak with a 16-yard touchdown run to give the Vikings the lead and Cousins added a 5-yard touchdown pass to Thielen.

But two missed field goals by Greg Joseph kept the Panthers (3-3) in it.

Sam Darnold finished 17 of 41 for 207 yards with one touchdown and two turnovers and nearly pulled off a wild comeback.

Colts 31, Texans 3

In Indianapolis, Carson Wentz threw two touchdown passes, Jonathan Taylor ran for two more and the Indianapolis defense held up.

Indy rebounded from an embarrassing fourth-quarter collapse at Baltimore by winning for the second time in three weeks. The Colts (2-4) can now move within one game of the AFC South lead — if Buffalo beats Tennessee on Monday.

Houston (1-5) has lost five straight overall and six of the last seven against the Colts.

And this one changed quickly in the second half — in the exact opposite direction of the Monday night fiasco.

Two-time All-Pro linebacker Darius Leonard picked off rookie quarterback Davis Mills on Houston's first play of the third quarter. Wentz capitalized two plays later with a 28-yard TD pass to Mo Alie-Cox to make it 17-3.

Chiefs 31, Washington 13

In Landover, Md., Patrick Mahomes threw for 397 yards and engineered three second-half touchdown drives to compensate for a pair of interceptions.

After throwing two picks before halftime, Mahomes connected with Tyreek Hill on a 2-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter. He put the game out of reach with a 24-yarder to Demarcus Robinson with 3:14 left in the fourth period. In between, new starting running back Darrel Williams rushed for his second TD of the game to help Kansas City (3-3) avoid what would have been an embarrassing loss.

The defense also finally played its part, holding an opponent under 29 points for the first time this season, forcing a fumble and picking off Taylor Heinicke to seal the win. Washington (2-4) finished with 276 yards and its lowest points total of the season.

Packers 24, Bears 14

In Chicago, Aaron Rodgers threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as the Packers (5-1) beat the Bears (3-3) for the 20th time in 23 games counting the playoffs and improved to 22-5 with Rodgers as the starter against Chicago.

Rodgers shook off a sluggish start, throwing a 1-yard touchdown to Allen Lazard in the second quarter and a 12-yarder to Aaron Jones in the third, making it 17-7.

Rodgers put away the Bears after Justin Fields threw a 5-yard touchdown to Darnell Mooney, cutting the lead to three with 8:44 left. He scored from the 6 to cap a 75-yard drive, bumping the lead back up to 10. He then turned toward the crowd and yelled, "I still own you! I still own you!"

Davante Adams caught four passes for 89 yards. Aaron Jones ran for 76 yards and caught four passes for 34, helping the Packers remain unbeaten since a season-opening 38-3 loss to New Orleans in Jacksonville.

Rams 38, Giants 11

In East Rutherford, N.J., Matthew Stafford threw three of his four touchdown passes in a 28-point second quarter. Stafford connected with prime target Cooper Kupp on scoring passes of 3 and 13 yards. He also found Robert Woods for a 15-yard score and running back Darrell Henderson on a 25-yarder.

Stafford, who has 16 TD passes in six games, finished 22 of 28 for 251 yards in three-plus quarters. The Rams (5-1) took advantage of two short fields provided by their defense for easy TDs in breaking the game open early against New York (1-5).

Kupp, who was tied for second in the league with 37 catches entering the game, added nine more receptions for 130 yards. Safety Taylor Rapp had two interceptions to account for half of Los Angeles' four takeaways.

Bengals 34, Lions 11

In Detroit, Joe Burrow tied a career high with three touchdown passes, helping the Bengals (4-2) equal last year's number of wins and double their victories from 2019 during coach Zac Taylor's debut season.

Detroit (0-6) could not rally as it did in closely contested setbacks against San Francisco, Baltimore and Minnesota, failing to score until Austin Seibert made a 35-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter. The Lions are the NFL's only winless team under first-year coach Dan Campbell. They have lost 10 straight going back to last season for the league's longest active losing streak.

Braves beat Dodgers 5-4, lead NLCS 2-0

ATLANTA (AP)—More late-night magic has the Atlanta Braves just two wins away from the World Series.

Eddie Rosario delivered Atlanta's second straight walk-off hit in the ninth inning, giving the Braves a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday and a commanding 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

Rosario's fourth hit of the game was a two-out single off shortstop Corey Seager's glove after the Braves twice rallied from two-run deficits.

"These guys have always been like that," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "They're never out."

Rosario delivered a 105 mph scorcher up the middle on the first pitch after closer Kenley Jansen relieved. Seager tried for a backhand snag, but the ball skidded off his glove into center field.

There was no chance to get Dansby Swanson, who raced around from second with the winning run, dropping his helmet as he crossed the plate — a virtual repeat of Game 1 when Austin Riley came through with a winning hit in the ninth for a 3-2 victory.

The series resumes in Los Angeles, where Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is set for Tuesday night.

"We all have that dream, that desire to get to the World Series," Rosario said. "That's just what we're going for."

The Braves are halfway to their first World Series appearance since 1999, but they can't celebrate just yet.

A year ago, Atlanta held leads of 2-0 and 3-1 over the Dodgers in the NLCS, only to lose the last three games of a series played in Arlington, Texas, because the pandemic. Los Angeles went on to beat Tampa Bay in the World Series, while the Braves stewed for another shot.

They rallied in the eighth off Julio Urías, who pitched three hitless innings to finish Game 7 against the Braves last October.

Seventy-three of 87 teams taking 2-0 leads in best-of-seven baseball postseason series have gone on to win.

"We were up on them 2-0 last year, so it's like one of those things where you can't stop now, you got to continue to apply the pressure and come out every day and get after it," Riley said.

Seager and Atlanta's Joc Pederson traded two-run homers — Pederson adding to his "Joctober" lore with his third homer of this postseason and first off his longtime team — before Chris Taylor put the Dodgers ahead again with a two-run, bases-loaded hit in the seventh.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Eddie Rosario is congratulated by teammates after hitting the game winning RBI single during the ninth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 2 of baseball's National League Championship Series Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, in Atlanta.

But it was another night of wasted chances for Los Angeles, which went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position and dropped to 2 for 18 in the series.

Six outs from tying the series, the Dodgers brought in expected Game 4 starter Urías to protect the lead before turning it over to Brusdar Graterol in the ninth.

Rosario led off with a single and tagged up to move up to second on Freddie Freeman's flyout.

Ozzie Albies lined to right for another hit off Urias. Rosario zipped around third as third base coach Ron Washington sent him home, just beating the throw with a brilliant slide that avoided catcher Will Smith's swipe.

Then it was Riley coming through again. He ripped a double to wall in right center, bringing Albies all the way around from first with the tying run as Washington made another aggressive send.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts had no regrets about turning to Urias.

"He was the best option at that point in time," Robert said.

Travis d'Arnaud led off the ninth with a broken-bat single to center on a 101 mph pitch from Graterol and was replaced by pinch-runner Cristian Pache. Swanson tried to move Pache along with a bunt, only to have the attempted sacrifice result in a forceout at second when Seager made a backhand stop on Graterol's bounced, offline throw.

Swanson managed to get to second himself when Guillermo Heredia grounded out to third base. The Dodgers turned to their closer to face Rosario, who connected on the very first pitch for the fifth walk-off in 23 postseason games this year.

Braves closer Will Smith picked up the win with a 1-2-3 ninth, breathing a big sigh of relief when Trea Turner's drive was caught at the base of the wall in left.

The Dodgers grabbed a 2-0 lead just six pitches in against Ian Anderson, who lasted just three innings. Mookie Betts led off with a single, and Seager launched one over the fence in right-center to stun the raucous crowd.

Pederson brought them back to life with another installment of Joctober in the fourth.

With a runner aboard, Pederson connected on a hanging curve from Max Scherzer for his third homer of this postseason, a 454-foot shot into Chop House restaurant above the right-field stands.

It was the longest homer by any player in this postseason — and the 12th of Pederson's career in the games that really matter.

Scherzer, who had earned his first career save in the deciding game of the Division Series against San Francisco, returned to a more familiar role as Game 2 starter.

But, with only two days of rest between appearances, he departed after just 4 1/3 innings, having thrown 79 pitches. He surrendered four hits, two runs, one walk and struck out seven.

"My arm was dead," Scherzer said. "I could tell when I was warming up that it was still tired."

A sore neck ended Justin Turner's streak of 77 consecutive postseason starts.

Dale Murphy, one of the Atlanta Braves' greatest players, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Murphy walked toward the mound wearing a No. 3 jersey that was so familiar during his career, pulled off the jersey to reveal Hank Aaron's No. 44 uniform. then tugged off the Hammer's jersey and had on Riley's No. 27. Murphy also pulled out a pair of pearls, a tribute to Pederson's fashion statement.

Dynamic duo: Altuve, Correa both get top billing for Astros

HOUSTON (AP)—When it comes to dynamic duos, there's often a clear-cut top dog and a trusty sidekick.

That's not the case with second baseman Jose Altuve and shortstop Carlos Correa, Houston's middle-infield combo who both shine equally bright for the Astros.

"A lot of times you have one All-Star caliber (player) and like a ... Robin," manager Dusty Baker said. "But this time you've got two Batmans."

The pair played its 66th postseason game together on Saturday, which is the most by any shortstop and second base duo in MLB history.

The two cornerstones of the franchise, or to use Baker's term, the team's vertebrae, have played together since Correa's debut in 2015, a year that featured their first trip to the postseason.

Altuve doesn't recall a specific conversation they had back then about their expectations for the future, but he knows they often discussed "winning and playing together for a long time."

They've certainly accomplished both of those goals. This season marks their sixth postseason trip and they've helped the Astros to a fifth consecutive AL Championship Series where they're tied 1-1 with the Boston Red Sox.

They're looking for a third trip to the World Series after losing to Washington in 2019 following their 2017 World Series win that was later tainted by a sign-stealing scandal.

Houston won more than 100 games in three of the seasons since Correa made it to the big leagues and finished this regular season with 95 victories to capture their fourth AL West title in five years.

"It's hard to imagine something like this," Altuve said. "What we're living is a dream come true. We thank God every day for the opportunity to play together, for what we're doing. And it's been, it's been amazing."

Altuve hit a two-run homer to tie Game 1 of the ALCS Friday night before Correa's solo shot in the seventh inning put them on top in a 5-4 win. Boston hit two grand slams in Game 2 to tie the series with a 9-5 victory.

Game 3 is Monday night in Boston where the Astros will have to rely more heavily on Altuve, Correa and the rest of their high-powered offense after a rash pitching injuries.

Altuve's home run on Friday was the 20th of his postseason career, tying him with Yankees' great Derek Jeter for third most in MLB history. Not to be outdone, Correa's blast gave him five RBIs this postseason and 55 in his career to pass Albert Pujols for the most of any active player.

"I don't know if they're trying to one-up each other, but they're trying to do the best they can every time out there," Baker said.

Though Altuve now sees Correa as an equal, Correa still looks up to Altuve like a kid who idolizes his older brother.

Asked about Altuve, Correa reels off a list of some of his many accomplishments, which include the 2017 AL MVP, five Silver Slugger Awards and capturing the AL batting title three times. But what impresses Correa the most about Altuve is not that he's won those many awards, but rather the way he continues to work after collecting all that hardware.

"When you have the best player of your team, that captain, that franchise player that everybody looks up to working that hard, it's just contagious," Correa said. "Everybody else in the organization does the same thing, so I feel like he inspires everybody in that clubhouse every single day."

Correa becomes a free agent at season's end. And there's increasing concern that the Astros won't be able to keep him, despite owner Jim Crane saying recently that he believes they've got a chance. Correa would like to stay in Houston and teammates and coaches alike want him to remain with the team.

But Altuve seems to be the only one who truly believes that he will. He mentions that he doesn't believe these are the last games he'll be playing with Correa without even being asked.

"I still feel like we're going to go and sign him," Altuve said. "We have to. If we want to keep doing what we're doing, we need to sign Carlos."

Since Altuve's been so vocal in the media about his desire for his buddy to remain alongside him in Houston for years to come, he believes Crane should have already received his message loud and clear.

But just in case he hasn't, Altuve is prepared to plead his case to Crane personally.

"I have to talk to him," Altuve said. "I'm going to call him for sure and tell him we have to keep Carlos."

NMTI holds outreach for NMI training team pool

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800	172	64
New England	2	4	0	.333	125	127
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	.200	67	121
Miami	1	5	0	.167	99	177
South						
Tennessee	3	2	0	.600	132	130
Indianapolis	2	4	0	.333	139	131
Houston	1	5	0	.167	92	172
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	116	172
North						
Baltimore	5	1	0	.833	170	123
Cincinnati	4	2	0	.667	148	111
Cleveland	3	3	0	.500	156	151
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	117	132
West						
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667	148	150
Las Vegas	4	2	0	.667	147	144
Denver	3	3	0	.500	126	110
Kansas City	3	3	0	.500	185	176

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	5	1	0	.833	205	146
Philadelphia	2	4	0	.333	137	152
Washington	2	4	0	.333	136	186
N.Y. Giants	1	5	0	.167	114	177
South						
Tampa Bay	5	1	0	.833	195	144
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600	127	91
Carolina	3	3	0	.500	143	121
Atlanta	2	3	0	.400	105	148
North						
Green Bay	5	1	0	.833	144	136
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	98	124
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	147	137
Detroit	0	6	0	.000	109	172
West						
Arizona	6	0	0	1.000	194	109
L.A. Rams	5	1	0	.833	179	127
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	117	119
Seattle	2	4	0	.333	140	149

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held an outreach presentation for close to 30 members of the NMI training team pool last Thursday at its Lower Base facility.

The athletes were treated to presentations on NMTI's courses and scholarship opportunities and a tour of the trade school.

In an interview Thursday, NMTI chief executive officer Jodina Attao said NMTI Board of Trustees member Catherine Attao—who is also a Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Committee member—brought up the idea of the outreach to NMTI's Student Services team.

Jodina Attao added that the outreach took several weeks of planning to ensure that the event would not interfere with the athletes' schedules and that Catherine Attao said it was important that the outreach take place at NMTI's Lower Base facility so that the athletes can see firsthand what the trade school has to offer.

Also in an interview Thursday, Catherine Attao said that it was important the players got to see NMTI as many of them prepare for life after high school. She expects the athletes to pursue the traditional route of graduating from high school and going on to play for a college or university team but saw the outreach event as an opportunity to show the athletes that opportunities exist at home.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Members of the NMI training team pool and their coaches share a photo with Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff after an outreach event last Thursday at NMTI's Lower Base Facility.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan gives remarks to the NMI training team pool members during an outreach event last Thursday at NMTI's Lower Base facility.

"A lot of them are getting ready to graduate, and I know a lot of them want to continue playing soccer. They're [doing] a lot of decision-making, 'Where do I go to college?' 'Do they have a spot for me?' and so forth, and sometimes we get a bit overwhelmed thinking [about] what the possibilities could be. ...I wanted them to remember [to not] forget about your home, because the opportunities are also here," said Catherine Attao.

NMIFA president and Tan-Holdings CEO Jerry Tan made a brief appearance at NMTI on Thursday to give closing remarks to the team. In an interview afterwards, Tan said that the outreach was a first for the NMIFA, and was pleased with how it went. He, like Catherine Attao, also spoke on the importance of showing the athletes opportunities that exist for them in the CNMI.

"We put a lot of time into training them. This is our national team [and we're] preparing them for international competition, but since they're teenagers they're also approaching high school graduation, so we have to also think about their future. People always talk about [playing soccer] off-island, going to [the Northern Marianas College], but it's great to let them also have a chance to know more about NMTI and see if this is the right fit for them, and give them an additional option to consider," said Tan.

"NMTI has a lot to offer, and that's why for the NMIFA it's important to introduce and make them realize that there are additional options available to them as they are pondering on their future and making those important decisions," he added.

LADY

From Page 20

Saures and Hye Jin Elliott then made it 11-8 and GCA 1 went to town after that, scoring 10 of the game's final 12 points to win the set, 21-10, and complete yet another undefeated season to take home the high school volleyball championship trophy to Navy Hill.

In all, the Lady Eagles 1 didn't drop a set in the first round, but the Lady Dolphins 1 gave them all they could handle not only in the finals but also in the semifinals. Led by Monterubio and other power-hitters, MHS 1 managed to extend GCA 1 to a surprising third set in the semifinals before falling. It marked the only time GCA 1 dropped a set the entire season.

MHS 1 bounced back after the semis loss, arranging its championship showdown against GCA 1 after discarding Saipan International School 1 in a one set, race to 15.

GCA 1 started its playoff campaign by beating Saipan Southern High School 2 before defeating Tinian High School 1. It then triumphed against Mt. Carmel School 1 in the quarterfinals to move to the semifinals opposite MHS 1.

Libut later admitted that this year's championship is probably the best GCA 1 has ever won in his years coaching there.

"I think this is the best championship I've ever won. For one, MHS 1 is really good. There's competition [this year]. A lot of our past championships were one-sided. We didn't have this [kind of competition]. But against MHS 1 and in their house and all the cheering thing… it's amazing."

The GCA 1 coach said prior to the start of the season, he had some trepidations about leading the Lady Eagles 1 to the Promised Land.

"Sometimes it's so tiring and the pressure of winning and winning. I asked Kat [Saures] if she's tired of trying to prove we're still No. 1. Kat said 'I'm not tired of winning Mr. C.'"

Asked about his thoughts on narrowly winning the first set, Libut said he just reminded his players that they're the league's best team for a reason.

"I told them they have to know who they are because they're the best team. I think the only reason they (MHS 1) scored was we put pressure on ourselves and that's why we made those mistakes. The No. 1 thing I told them is 'you have to know who you are and what you were able to accomplish and hold on to that. Just relax and you will win the game.' And that's what they did."

He also commended MHS 1 and coach Cabrera for a well-played finals game.

"Their spikers are probably the best. But we were able to counter that. It was really tough and I was surprised with the girls. Karina (Dilse) practiced how to spike but not to receive. She stepped up and said 'I'm gonna take this ball!'"

Libut also heaped praises on GCA for supporting the school's volleyball program.

"I want to thank the whole GCA. When it comes to practices, boys [volleyball players] were staying after school just to practice with us. They also allowed us to practice there Saturday and even holidays. The administration really worked with us or else we wouldn't be able to practice," he said.

Aside from Elliott, Dilse, and Suares, who has been part of the Lady Eagles' varsity squad since sixth grade, the rest of the GCA 1 roster includes Clerrise Dacumos, Soleil Lamar, Vicky Wang, Mint Karsuaythong, Eunice Pagaduan, and Allyssa Omampo. Of the nine, Dilse and Dacumos are graduating this school year.

REAL

From Page 20

"Just happy for them to get some basketball competition again. It was a long day for all the players and I'm glad that they fought until the end. It was a great effort by the Chargers and a great championship game!" said Basa.

A total of six teams entered in the U18 division of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation-organized tournament. Aside from Ol'Aces Real Deal and Chinatown Chargers, also suiting up were Tinian Typhoon, MadFlex, San Antonio Sixers, and the Rollers' Undercooked Rolls.

There were also a men's and women's divisions. The men's field include the Outlaws, Roll'Aces, Tinian Typhoon, Babenome, End Game, D. Cider, The Game, and Hole in the Wall. The women's field was made up of Acers, Team Agape, Alley-Oops, That One Team, Shammi, Small Giants, CrushOver, Tinian Typhoon, Gang Gang, and BellaBalls.

Results of the men's and women's NMIBF 3×3 Hoop Fest will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

GALVEZ

From Page 20

pared to doubles, my strategy was more focused on patience, pace of movement or speed, pace of shots, and defense all while saving energy for attacking points," he said.

Galvez also admitted that he entered the finals at a bit of a disadvantage, as a lingering injury and his workload didn't really allow him to practice and train for the championship.

"I didn't really have training prior or during the duration of the tournament as I've been lately heavily tired throughout the day from work which did affect my performance in the tournament, and recovering from an injury from one of my matches. Until I reached the finals was where it really mattered and thought I need to do something to ensure victory."

Fortunately, everything clicked for Galvez in the crucial stages of the finals and he was able to add the men's A singles title to the two team championships he won earlier this year as part of Shirley's Badminton Club.

"The last strategy I was able to do at the last minute that helped a lot in my victory was warming up my body right before the final match. I made sure to take care of any soreness in my body (legs, feet, back, etc.) using a massager. Quality stretching. And warm up exercises to get my heart pumped. All this really made a difference despite being fatigued from work and sore from prior matches," he said.

In the finals of mixed doubles A, Nate Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan overcame Jordan Pangilinan and Lucelle Lampera's twice-to-beat advantage in the finals to annex the championship.

Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan forced a second game by defeating the No. 1 seeds last Wednesday, 21-9, 18-21, 21-11. They then completed the back-door run to the championship with a 21-14, 21-12 conquest of Jordan Pangilinan and Lampera last Friday.

Jordan Pangilinan and Joseph Torres then bounced back from separate losses in the finals by going all the way in the men's doubles A. Prior to the finals against top seed Andreau Galvez and Lance Gallardo, both doubles teams agreed to play a one-game championships and Pangilinan and Torres pulled out all the stops to upset Galvez and Gallardo, 21-10, 21-14.

A total of 29 players competed in the TakeCare Insurance Co., Inc.-sponsored tournament. Results of the B and C singles, doubles, and mixed doubles will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Cowboys get 1st win over Belichick's Patriots, 35-29 in OT

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Sports

NMTI holds outreach for NMI training team pool

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Lady Eagles 1 complete five-peat

MARK RABAGO

Grace Christian Academy 1 players and coach Cesar Libut celebrate an unprecedented fifth straight championship in the 2022 NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League after defeating Marianas High School 1 in the title game last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Grace Christian Academy 1 completed an unprecedented fifth straight championship in the 2022 NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League by beating Marianas High School 1 in the title game last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The lasses of coach Cesar Libut faced their biggest challenge the past five years in the championship game, as MHS 1 led early and was 3 points from upsetting GCA 1 in the first set.

But GCA 1 rallied and managed to take the upper hand 19-18 on an error from MHS 1 power-hitter Fatima Monterubio. Monterubio would atone for her missed set later when she knotted the count at 20-all after tattooing the volleyball on GCA 1's court. Both teams would be tied twice more before the Lady Eagles 1 took the first set, 24-22.

The second set started like the first, as MHS 1 had the early lead only to be upended by Katriel Suares' service game. Behind their setter's superb service, GCA 1 rattled off five straight points and led 10-7. Monterubio momentarily stopped the bleeding for coach Don Marshall Cabrera's girls with one of her sharp spikes.

Another set and spike from

See LADY on Page 19

Real Deal wins 3x3 U18 championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There was nothing fake about Ol'Aces Real Deal in the NMIBF 3×3 Hoop Fest last Saturday, as the Preston Basa-coached team took home the boys U18 division championship at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Airson Atan's drive with 10 seconds left allowed Real Deal to escape Chinatown Chargers, 10-9, in the finals.

The Chargers of coach Walter Mendez had a chance to force overtime when Kenny Laquian was fouled in the ensuring play. He missed the free throw but got the rebound before misfiring on his 8-foot jumper. Real Deal then secured the rebound and frittered away the time.

Atan led Real Deal in the win with 6 points. He was supported by Harry Kapwich's 3 points and the 1 point of D.K. Fiden. Completing the team's roster is Matthew Lukas. Real Deal finished the tournament with 4-0 card after going 3-0 before the finals.

The Chargers, who went 2-1 in the elimination round, was paced by the 7 markers of Aiden Suba, while Mari Balingasay added 2 markers. Laquian and John Mark Escalada also make up the team.

See REAL on Page 19

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Real Deal Ol'Aces' D.K. Fiden, left, looks for his teammates as he is hounded by the Chinatown Chargers' Kenny Laquian during their finals match in the boys U18 division of the NMIBF 3x3 Hoop Fest held last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Andreu Galvez in action against Joseph Torres in the finals of the men's A singles of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Galvez golden in men's A singles

By MARK RABAGO
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CNMI National Badminton player Andreu Galvez bucked a slow start to beat Joseph Torres in the finals of the men's A singles of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Torres actually negated the 29-year-old CK Head Start staff's twice-to-beat advantage in the first game of the championship, 21-11, 21-16, last Wednesday to force a do-or-die rubber match.

Luckily for Galvez, he stepped up when the stakes were highest and leaned on his veteran savvy to beat Torres in a nail-biter, 21-18, 21-20, last Friday.

The newly minted men's A singles champion said he was really lucky that he went undefeated in the seeding round and that allowed him to be able to afford to lose Game 1 of the finals.

"Since I had no losses in my bracket for the men's singles category, I had the opportunity to play twice (in the event I lose the first time, I would play a second and final time). I did however lose the first round, so I had to ensure a last-chance victory in the second and final round," he said.

The Sadog Tasi resident, who began playing badminton when he was just 15 years old, had to dig deep into his bag of tricks to upend Torres in the highly competitive finals.

"Because singles is more tactical and rigorous com-

See GALVEZ on Page 19